

SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

VOL. X.—NEW SERIES, No. 233.]

LONDON: FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1850.

[GRATIS.]

ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.

BIBLE TRANSLATION SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Wednesday evening, April 24, at Park-street Chapel, Southwark. The chair was occupied by S. M. Peto, Esq., M.P.; and amongst the friends on the platform were observed the Revs. Drs. Steane, Acworth, Cox, Godwin, Hoby, and Messrs. Brock, Angus, Haycroft, Thomas, Overbury, and Walters; G. T. Kemp, Esq., J. Callender, Esq., J. Shoard, Esq., G. Lowe, Esq., F.R.S., H. Kelsall, Esq., and T. Nicholson, Esq.

The proceedings having been opened by singing and prayer,

The CHAIRMAN then said: If I were asked to point to any part of our history to which, beyond anything else, we might attribute the large amount of civil and religious liberty which we enjoy, I should refer to that period when the Bible was first translated into our own tongue and made accessible to all the people [hear, hear]. But for that we never should have become the great nation we are, or possess those inestimable privileges of which we are all partakers, and which it is impossible too highly to appreciate [applause]. I believe there never was a time when the efforts of this society were more needed than now. In every part of the habitable globe there were openings for its labours. On the right hand and the left, in every country, we see that no sooner are the Scriptures translated into their own language than the people are ready to receive them, and read them with avidity. The intercourse which commerce, as well as the labours of the missionaries, is raising up, is creating a desire for information, and a spirit of inquiry amongst those nations which have hitherto been sunk in the depths of ignorance and heathenism—which, if we do not satisfy, as Christians men we are bound to do, the Scriptures of Truth will be taken advantage of by those who will be too ready to supply the bane while we withhold the antidote [hear, hear]. If we turn our eyes to India we find ample reason to congratulate ourselves on what the society has accomplished in that extensive field. Three several versions of the Holy Scriptures there make known to 70,000,000 of people the Word of Eternal Life in their own language. And those versions had, from time to time, received such emendations that we might now suppose them as nearly as possible perfect translations [hear, hear]. If the missionary staff was discontinued—which God forbid—the large number of Bibles which are now in circulation in that country would give us good reason for believing, that the Christian Church would continue to flourish there notwithstanding, and the people would not be deprived altogether of the inestimable blessing of the Word of Life [hear, hear]. In China the most ample opportunity exists for the propagation of the gospel, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. We are informed that the Emperor of that country has recently issued an edict permitting all his subjects to profess and practise whatever religion they may think best, without incurring any sacrifice of property or liberty, or forfeiting their rights as citizens. If this be so, and the Chinese are now permitted to read the Holy Scriptures without molestation or hindrance, it becomes our duty immediately to seize the favourable opportunity, and supply the want that is thus, by God's mercy, presented to us [applause]. Dr. Gutzlaff, of whom I have had the opportunity of making inquiries as to the state of that interesting country, says, that he has issued twenty editions of the Scriptures in the Chinese language—the last extending to 20,000 copies—all of which were bought up within three weeks of their being printed; and not only were they purchased by the people belonging to the seaports, but by those who came to trade there from various parts of the interior; and he has every reason to believe that the copies of the Scriptures which he and his agents have sold are being distributed throughout the whole of China [hear, hear]. With such facts before us we cannot but take courage, and, thanking God heartily for what has been done, pledge ourselves, with his help, to go forward and do more [cheers].

The Rev. Dr. STEANE then proceeded to read the Report. The document commenced with an acknowledgment to God for his great mercy in continuing the Oriental translators in life during another year, and for the progress they had made; and, describing that progress, says:—

Mr. Leslie's Hindi version finds readers among the large population dwelling along the shores of the Ganges, between Monghir and Benares; and he has added to his other duties that of superintending an extensive reprint of the Gospels and the Acts in the Kaithi character. This edition is the same in all essential respects with that which was previously published in the Deva Nagri character, but has nevertheless been considerably improved.

Mr. Lewis has rendered valued aid both to Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wenger; to the former, in conducting through the press the Hindustani version—and to the latter, in revising the proofs of the Bengali—while the Persian New Testament, or portions of it, have been either reprinted or prepared for the press under his care.

During the year there have been printed in Hindi, in the Kaithi character, of the Gospels and Acts 1,500 copies, and of the Acts alone 3,000; making together, 4,500. In Hindustani (Arabic character) single Gospels, 21,500; in Persian, Gospel of Matthew, 3,000; in Bengali, Gospel of John, Acts, Luke and Acts, Gospels and Acts, and New Testament, 38,000; in Sanscrit, the Gospels of Luke, John, and Acts, 7,500; in all, 74,500. The issues from the depository during the year have amounted to 34,528 copies. The works now in progress (says Mr. Wenger) are 1st, in Hindi; the whole New Testament will be printed in Kaithi character—2nd, in Hindustani, the whole New Testament in the Arabic character, and another edition in the Roman character—3rd, in Persian, the whole New Testament—4th, in Bengali, the whole New Testament—5th, in Sanscrit, the Old Testament, printed down to the 1st Kings vi. 38, and the revised New Testament, which has advanced nearly to the end of Romans. Mr. Thomas gives the number of copies distributed from January 1847 to December 1849—in Bengali, New Testament Scriptures, 11,000; Old, 16,000; together, 27,000. Hindustani, New Testament Scriptures, 24,000. Hindi, Dev Nagree character, New Testament, 13,000; Kaithi character, New Testament, 16,500; equal to 29,500. Persian, Gospel of Matthew, 3,000. Sanscrit, New Testament, 15,000; Old, 2,500; making, 17,500. Grand total, 191,000.

The report then referred to some objections raised by the clergy of the Bishop's College against the Bengal translation—apparently influenced by Tractarian views, but which Mr. Wenger had effectually answered—and continued—

In reporting the proceedings of the society in 1848, it was stated that a grant of £150 had been voted in aid of an improved edition of Dr. Marshman's Chinese version. Since that time the committee have had the gratification to receive a copy of the Gospel by St. Luke, and of the first six chapters of the Book of Genesis, from the missionaries of the General Baptist Missionary Society, by whom this work is undertaken, accompanied with grateful acknowledgments for the assistance thus afforded. By the Oriental mail, which arrived yesterday, they are favoured with some further particulars, which they lay at once before the society. "The following," says Mr. Hudson, in a letter dated Ningpo, Jan. 11, 1850, "is the amount of the number of copies printed, and the dates when published:—

1848—May.	St. Luke's Gospel.....	1,500
1849—Jan. 5.	St. John's Gospel.....	1,500
July 10.	Genesis, first six chapters	2,000
Sept. 12.	Acts of the Apostles....	1,500
		6,500"

In a subsequent part of his letter, the writer says: "St. Matthew's Gospel is now printing, and will be out in a short time; St. Mark's Gospel is also ready when Matthew is finished." The letter concluded by bearing testimony to the value of Dr. Marshman's Chinese version. The committee persuaded themselves that this intelligence, in reference to the biblical labours of their brethren, will be received with thanksgiving to God, and with the fervent prayer that they may be permitted by his gracious providence to complete the work they have thus begun.

Towards the translation carrying on at Calcutta, the committee have had the happiness to be able to vote two separate sums of £500, together with a third vote of £200 specially in aid of Mr. Leslie's version into the Hindi.

The receipts of the year in donations, collections, subscriptions, &c., have amounted to £1,474 12s. 11d., to which they have to add the legacy of £200 from the late Mrs. Burls, less duty, and another legacy of £100 due at Whitsuntide, from the late Mrs. Collins.

In conclusion, the committee recommend the support of the institution to the Churches of their own denomination, and to all who pray that the Word of the Lord may have free course.

The Rev. CALEB BIRT, in a brief and appropriate speech, moved the first resolution, adopting the report, and recognising with gratitude the goodness of God in the progress of the work, which was seconded by the Rev. T. BURDITT, of Saffron Walden.

The Rev. Dr. Cox moved the next resolution, acknowledging the hand of God in the efforts of the early Baptist missionaries to translate the Scriptures, and expressive of the conviction, that too much importance could not be attached to the perfecting of the versions made by them. It spoke of the Baptist missionaries. And who were the Baptist missionaries? In the prostituted pages of our periodical literature, when these men were first named, they were only named as existing under the influence of different shades of lunacy [laughter]. That was precisely the language of the *Edinburgh Review* at that period. But it was not surprising that they were deemed insane by men of this world—men who could understand nothing of the principles which guided them—men who concluded that they could not do anything which they pretended to do. These individuals, so contemned and despised, after a time began to publish a grammar and then a dictionary of a language unknown in Europe. They then began to excite attention and interest in the public mind. They proceeded in their course until the very publication which had denounced them as wild enthusiasts, turned round and said, "They are the translators of languages; they are the communicators to the world of amazing discoveries of an etymological kind; they have been the means of communicating the truths of God to distant nations, and their names will be written on the pages of history, and handed down to future generations" [hear, hear]. This was a remarkable day in connexion with this missionary undertaking. It was the jubilee day of the formation of the first Baptist Church at Serampore—[cheers]—and he called upon all present to return their devout thanks to God for the establishment of that Church [hear]. Were that station to be abandoned—were Serampore annihilated to-morrow—were Calcutta to be destroyed—this work would live, this principle would survive, and the effect produced by that first Christian Church would last for ever [cheers].

The Rev. JOHN BILL, from Nova Scotia, in seconding the resolution, called the attention of the meeting to some interesting and remarkable instances of the importance attached to the Word of God by the converted Indians, and their desire to communicate its blessing to their relatives and friends. The providence of God was distinctly marked in the course pursued by the parties engaged in this Bible movement. There was something remarkably providential in the organization which had excited so much attention and interest in England and America. In the latter country especially, it had made a deep impression on men's minds. All that had yet been witnessed was merely the commencement of this great movement. In America, the Baptists did not organize until they were compelled to do so by the force of circumstances. Those persons with whom they had worked in the Bible Society refused to aid them, unless their foreign translations corresponded entirely with the English version. They said, "We cannot give such a translation—we must translate the Scriptures according to our own convictions and views of the truth." When aid was withheld it became necessary for the Baptists to give their missionaries support, or leave them to suffer. Differences of opinion prevailed in the Baptist body, but it possessed sufficient religion, and faith, and energy, to form a glorious organization for the promotion of so glorious a work [hear, hear]. The funds of the American Society were somewhat in advance of the society whose claims were now under consideration. The last report showed an income of some 40,000 dollars, or from £9,000 to £10,000 sterling. That society was engaged in translating the Scriptures into the several languages of the East, extending them to France, Germany, and various other parts of the continent of Europe, going far into China, visiting the various islands of the sea. Its efforts were of immense importance in relation to home circulation, for in the course of 100 years it was supposed that not less than 300,000,000 human beings would be found in America speaking the English language [hear, hear]. A strong feeling prevailed in that country as to the necessity of a new translation of the Scriptures in the English tongue, many errors

having crept into the former translation which might be removed by the intelligence of the present age. The question was, "How shall the change be effected? Shall we leave the change in the hands of our Pædobaptist brethren, or come out with a translation according to the conviction of our own consciences?" He believed the time was not far distant when a proposition would come from America to the British Baptists, with reference to a new English translation, and he trusted they would be prepared to join heart and hand in so important a work [hear, hear].

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

THOMAS NICHOLSON, Esq., in moving the appointment of the officers for the ensuing year, expressed his warm attachment to the Bible Translation Society.

G. LOWE, Esq., F.R.S., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated with praise and prayer.

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MEMBERS' MEETING.

On Tuesday morning, the 16th ult., at ten o'clock, the annual meeting of members of the Baptist Missionary Society was held in the Library of the Baptist Mission-house, Moorgate-street. The attendance of ministers and laymen from the country was numerous; and the gallery, as well as the floor, was occupied, in expectation of a debate on the motions notice of which was given last year by the Rev. J. P. Mursell and the Rev. E. S. Pryce, affecting the constitution of the society. Mr. Phillips, of Melksham, occupied the chair.

The Rev. W. ROBINSON, of Kettering, presented and read the Report of the committee appointed to examine into the property held by the society. It appeared that it was not encumbered with mortgage, but that the committee could not state its present value. They recommended that, so soon as the people at any mission-station should be capable of taking care of the mission property, the society should devolve upon them the burden of trusteeship; also, that in the model deed there should be inserted a provision against the society being ever placed under charter; and that the mission-press at Calcutta should be either disposed of, or placed upon a satisfactory mercantile basis. The committee highly complimented the late Mr. Dyer and Mr. Angus on the excellent order in which they found the books, papers, &c., which passed under their review.

The Report was referred to the committee for the adoption of such of the suggestions as might be found practicable and expedient.

The Rev. J. P. MURSELL moved the resolution of which he had given notice last year, respecting the constitution of the society. It was to the effect, that, as the society existed for a religious object, it should have a religious organization.

The Rev. T. F. NEWMAN seconded the motion.

Mr. PRYCE stated his own views of the way in which the resolution under consideration should be carried out. The law affecting membership, being founded upon a fixed amount of money contribution, deprived the society of any religious or spiritual element. There was nothing to prevent a Turk or an infidel from being a member of the society. They intended to lay down this principle, that the affairs of a society having a religious object should be under the care of religious men only, and that this result should be arrived at by direct and not indirect means [hear]. He animadverted upon the restriction of membership to contributors of a minimum of 10s. 6d., which disfranchised the great majority of the contributors. This was setting aside the New Testament principle of every man contributing according to his ability, and substituting a totally unscriptural and irreligious principle. He then stated in detail the manner in which, if these principles were adopted, it was proposed by himself and his friends to apply them in the management of the society.

Mr. T. NICHOLSON, of Lydney, wished to ask, since the members of the society in future were to be persons of approved religious character, who were to be the judges? [hear.]

The Rev. J. H. HINTON did not think it followed, from the fact that the society had a religious object, that it should therefore have a religious constitution. A constitution could indeed be neither religious nor irreligious. If the resolution were carried, they would be precluded from accepting any man's money who was not a religious man. Nor would that difficulty be removed by the suggestion that the members should be religious. Mr. Mursell and Mr. Pryce differed in their representations of their own intentions. The representative principle was thrown overboard [No, no].

A lengthened discussion upon this subject took place, in which Mr. Pewtress, Mr. T. Bignold, the Rev. J. Stock, Mr. Angus, the Rev. C. Stovel, Mr. W. H. Watson, Dr. Acworth, Dr. Godwin, and other gentlemen, took part.

Mr. TRESTRAIL, as Secretary, stated that there was great difference of opinion among the auxiliaries, as well as among individual friends of the society.

Mr. WATSON hoped that Mr. Pryce would yet withdraw his resolutions, which the meeting really had not had time to consider fully. He should move the previous question, unless the motion were withdrawn.

Mr. PETO, M.P., entreated Mr. Pryce to accede to this request. He and his friends must feel that the meeting, composed so largely of pastors of churches, was against them.

Mr. PRYCE said he would have no objection to withdraw his motion, provided that any member of

the society was disposed to move that it be an instruction to the committee chosen to-day to consider during the coming year, whether any beneficial change might be made in the constitution of the society.

The Rev. G. H. DAVIS, of Bristol, declared his willingness to bring forward such a motion. The Rev. Dr. Cox concurred entirely in this proposal, and would most earnestly second it.

Mr. Pryce withdrew his motion, and Mr. Watson his amendment; and the resolution of Mr. Davis was put and carried unanimously.

The meeting then proceeded with the other business.

PUBLIC MEETING.

The aggregate Anniversary Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society was held yesterday week in Exeter Hall—Alderman Callender, of Manchester, in the chair. On the platform, on either side of the chairman, the following, amongst other members and friends of the institution, were in attendance:—S. M. Peto, Esq., M.P.; Henry Kelsall, Esq., of Rochdale; J. L. Phillips, Esq., of Melksham; George Foster, Esq., of Sabden; Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, Drs. Steane, Hoby, Cox, and Acworth; Revs. J. Sprigg, Soule, C. Birt, R. W. Overbury, Winter, Newman, Roff, S. Green, Angus, J. H. Hinton, J. J. Brown, Joshua Russell, &c. &c. The Hall was well filled on the occasion, every seat being occupied.

The meeting having joined in the 588th Hymn of the Selection, the Rev. Dr. Hoby offered up an impressive prayer; after which,

The CHAIRMAN opened the proceedings in a brief and appropriate address:—I am sorry that, in coming before you for the first time at Exeter Hall, it becomes a part of my duty to say that the funds of the institution are comparatively at a very low state—if we look to the importance of the work in which we are engaged, and the loud and pressing calls that are made upon us from every part of the world where your missionaries are labouring. We need to redouble and not slacken our efforts [hear, hear]. In India, in China, in the West Indies, in Western Africa, and wherever we have a missionary station, our efforts ought to be redoubled. We have now the machinery all in operation—we have it not now to establish for the first time—all we want is the funds to enable the mission to be carried on as it should be, on a far larger scale than it has been hitherto, and, by God's blessing, with far greater success. There never was a time like the present, blessed be God for it! [hear, hear]. The work of conversion amongst the heathen never was so remarkable or so successful as at this period, and we have this morning, as on all former occasions, offered up our prayers, imploring His blessing to crown the labours of your faithful missionaries. He has heard that prayer, and will answer it in a manner, perhaps, beyond our expectations, or even our hopes. Shall we, then, when God is thus working for us and answering our prayers, shall we now slacken our hand and withhold the silver and the gold when they may be so profitably employed for the conversion of the heathen, who are every where perishing for lack of knowledge?

It is a remarkable circumstance, that at this period there are two societies who are labouring in India, both of which are much in want of missionaries. I met lately with that excellent minister, Mr. Anderson, of the Free Church of Scotland, who, with two brethren, has been labouring most successfully at Madras, but who is now in this country on account of the state of his health; he has stated to me and others that he had, during a residence of several months in Scotland, looked round throughout all their churches to see if he could find any young men who were qualified and suitable for the work, to go out to recruit the missionary stations in India; and though he had preached and talked to them, he had been unable to find a single individual who was suitable and willing to go, although a kind friend had offered to furnish the means to the extent of £300 a year for five years, if any one would undertake to go out with Mr. Anderson, who says that, as far as his experience goes, he sees no immediate prospect of obtaining the help required. He also stated, that the Church Missionary Society were in the same position—that they wanted suitable evangelical men to recruit their stations, but could not find them. Yet, while this is the case with these societies, it is remarkable that our society has been obliged to refuse the application of seven individuals, every way qualified, but whom we cannot send out for want of funds to support them. This is a state of things which I think ought to be made known; and, if made known among the churches of other denominations as well as our own [hear, hear]—for we have many kind friends and supporters among the churches of other denominations—I am persuaded we shall receive the funds which we require [applause]. After some further remarks, the Chairman called upon Mr. Trestrail to read the Report.

The SECRETARY then read the Report:—

THE FIELD OF LABOUR.—The missionaries sustained by the Society labour in Asia, on the Western coast of Africa, in France, and in the islands of the Western Sea. In Asia they encounter three great forms of religious error, the most powerful and extensive of all systems of religion—Brahminism and Mohammedanism in India, Buddhism in Ceylon. In degraded and enslaved Africa, Fetishism, with its charms, closes the heart against the truth of God among the native tribes, the Isabous, Duallas, and Fernandians. In Haiti, Trinidad, and Brittany, the perverted Christianity of the Church of Rome is the prevailing belief of the people, mingled in the two first with the superstitions and fearfully licentious rites of African Obelism and serpent worship—while in India, the practices of Rome are, to some extent, conformed to many of the usages of the heathen. In Ceylon, part of India, and the Bahamas, an additional hindrance to the progress of the gospel is found in the presence and active exertions of some of the clergy of the Church of England, whose exclusive claims of apostolicity and assertion of the efficacy of the sacraments for salvation, carries the strifes and sectarianism of our native land to regions but at the best imperfectly imbued with Christian truth. At about

one hundred and ninety-four stations and sub-stations, the gospel of Christ Jesus is regularly preached to many thousands by the missionary brethren from week to week, while their itinerant labours extend to many hundreds of villages and towns, and the message of God is daily proclaimed to thousands more at fairs and at markets, by the road-side and at the nightly resting-place.

THE LABOURERS.—The service of Christ is carried on in this extensive field by forty-eight brethren, with their wives, and nine females engaged in the special department of education. It has been, however, one of the blessed results of their toil, that from the midst of the converts there have been raised up, by the grace of God, not less than 120 natives of the different lands where the gospel has been proclaimed by our brethren, to aid them in the further extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. About 180 other Christian brethren gratuitously devote more or less of their time in making known the unspeakable riches of Christ. To these must be added thirty or more schoolmasters, in order to embrace in a brief view the whole of the Christian agency employed or set in motion by the society. The past year has witnessed several important changes in this department. Two highly valued brethren rest from their labours, having fallen asleep in Jesus. Mr. Davies, of Ceylon, after five years only of successful toil, and Mr. Merrick, of Western Africa, after nine years of devoted service, are no more to be numbered among the missionary band. Sickness has borne heavily on the energies of others, and driven them to fairer climes. Captain and Mrs. Milbourne have returned to Jamaica, and Mr. and Mrs. Yarnold have relinquished the work in Africa. And as we write, two other highly esteemed and useful missionaries—the brethren Makepeace, of Saugor, and Dawson, of Ceylon, overpowered by disease, are on their passage home. Motives of economy, combined with the reduction in the number of the brethren labouring in Africa, and the increasing means of communication between the various parts of the coast, have led to the recall of the missionary ship "Dove." The circumstances connected with the mission in Central America, and the apparent hopelessness of obtaining for the gospel an entrance into Yucatan, conjoined also with the necessity of retrenchment, have decided the committee to withdraw from that part of its field. Mr. Kingston's connexion with the society will cease during the present year. Painful as are many of these changes, yet are they under the controlling power of Him who is Head over all things for his Church.

THEIR LABOURS.—The labours of the missionaries may be divided into three chief departments—1. Translations; 2. Evangelization; 3. Education.

1. TRANSLATION.—In translations, the precedence must be given to the transference of the Word of God into the languages which are spoken by the people among whom the brethren labour. Although no new language has this year been undertaken, much progress has been made in several versions, and copies of portions of the Divine testimony have in large numbers left the press. In Hindi, for the use of the population on the Ganges between Monghir and Benares, 4,500 copies of the Gospels and Acts have been printed. In Hindustani, for the use of Mohammedans, in Persian and Bengali, 62,500 Gospels, Acts, or perfect Testaments have been finished, chiefly under the supervision of Mr. Lewis. And in Sanscrit, under brother Wenger's care, 7,500 copies of portions of the New Testament have appeared. Other large editions are in progress, especially of the Old Testament in Bengali and in Sanscrit by Mr. Wenger. The Bengali Testament, the work of Carey, Yates, and Wenger, is passing under a new ordeal; but has been triumphantly vindicated by the last-mentioned brother from the charge of heresy made by the clergy of Bishop's College in Calcutta. The total number of copies printed during the past year is 74,500; the number distributed, upwards of 50,000. In Central America, Mr. Kingston has been diligently employed in revising and perfecting his version of the Gospels and Acts in Maya. In Western Africa, besides the translation of the Gospels and Acts in Isabou, made by Mr. Merrick, and noticed last year, a commencement has been made by Mr. Baker in the translation of the Scriptures into the Duallas, the language of the natives of the Cameroons; and in France our brother, Mr. Jenkins, is preparing another edition of the New Testament in the Breton tongue. But the labours of your missionaries have not been confined to the Scriptures. In Brittany and in Trinidad, our brethren Jenkins and Law have been alike engaged in printing and circulating tracts on the chief errors of Rome; and in both cases have succeeded in arousing much inquiry and attention. The first volume of Barth's Bible stories in Breton is also just ready for the press. Mr. Thompson, of Delhi, too, has published large numbers of tracts on the absurdities and guilt of Hindoo idolatry. In these cases our brethren have been aided with liberal grants of paper by the Religious Tract Society. And, finally, at the time of his lamented decease, our brother Merrick had proceeded about half way in printing a vocabulary of the Isabou tongue, and had also completed a small collection of hymns in that language.

2. EVANGELIZATION.—Every opportunity is seized by the missionaries and their companions in labour, the native preachers and catechists, to extend the knowledge of the glad tidings of God's love to man. Beside the usual services of the sanctuary, portions of each day are spent in calling the attention of every class to the truths of salvation. While excursions are made in the neighbourhood of the stations, and the seed is sown with a liberal hand. As the result of these self-denying labours, and the Divine blessing resting upon them, there are under the pastoral care of the brethren, and of the native converts chosen to the pastorate, one hundred and eight Christian churches—ones of spiritual life in the midst of deserts and death. There are at present in fellowship in India and Ceylon, 1,962 persons; in Africa and the West Indies, 3,007; making in all nearly 5,000 professed disciples of Christ, and about 350 seeking admission into the fold exclusive of Jamaica. The clear increase during the year has been 188. The most flourishing of the mission churches are to be found in Bengal and the Bahama Islands. In these places the largest additions have been made, and the prospects are most promising and hopeful. In others, discouragements have been predominant: the work of God has been stayed, sometimes by affliction, at others by the outbreak of human passions, or by the hostility of enemies to the cross of Christ. As the varieties of soil on which the seed has fallen, so has been the harvest to reward the husbandman. The future prospects of evangelization in India are, however, rendered more bright than before by the long-delayed declaration, recently issued in the form of a draft of an Act by the East India Government, that no native of India, on changing his faith, shall henceforward be subject to the penalties, confiscations, and the disruption of every social tie, which conversion has until now drawn in its train [loud applause]. It is the Magna Charta of India on liberty of conscience.

3. EDUCATION.—The training of young men of native origin for the ministry has not, to the committee's regret, proceeded so favourably in every case as they could wish. The adverse influences alluded to in last year's report as in operation in Canada, have led to the closing of the college of Montreal, and the resignation of the tutor's office, by their respected and esteemed brother, Dr. Cramp; and, from present appearances, there does not appear much probability of its revival. The institution at Calabar, Jamaica, must be regarded as entirely successful. During the year the committee have been engaged in anxious deliberation on an offer made by John Marshman, Esq., respecting Serampore College. At present the whole matter is under consideration.

In reviewing the course of the year, there is one reflection the committee would urge upon the members of the society. God has continued to bless his servants, so that there has been no diminution, but an increase, in the spiritual results of missionary toil. For if some portions of the vineyard are not so productive as might be wished, the fruit in others has been sufficiently abundant to remove discouragement or fear. Yet the strength of the mission has been declining. In no case are the labourers equal to the toil demanded of them. Western Africa has lost one after another of its most energetic evangelists. They are reduced to the lowest possible number to hold the ground that had been occupied. In Ceylon, where three missionaries were not enough for the service of thirty-five stations and the oversight of four hundred and fifty members of churches, one only is left—and must we not say, to sink under the accumulated responsibility and toil! In India, with one or two exceptions, every station needs additional aid; some places have already been abandoned for want of it. Large

tracts of country are unoccupied, where it would appear the fields are white unto the harvest. Many of our brethren are aged. Should they be taken to their rest, as in the course of nature they must speedily be, the committee are unable to supply their place. And others are overwhelmed with care and anxiety induced by the scarcity of help. Brethren, we are straitened in ourselves. It is here, in our own hearts, in the churches of Christ in this land, we may find the remedy. A more generous and self-denying spirit must actuate the disciples of Christ, and your committee will not then have the deep sorrow and pain to turn a deaf ear to the loud cry ever reaching them from heathen lands, and from the weary and worn brethren who labour in them. "Come over and help us."

HOME PROCEEDINGS.

This section of the Report commenced by referring to the resignation of the late Secretary, the Rev. Joseph Angus; and in consequence of the official vacancy thus created, the election of the Rev. F. Trestrail and Mr. E. B. Underhill to be joint-Secretaries. The arrangement thus made had enabled the committee to effect a reduction in the amount of travelling agency previously employed. The report next referred to the state of the society's funds, as follows:—

The committee commenced the financial year with a debt of £4,946 17s. 10d., not including in that sum the balance of £1,514 14s. 1d., owing on the special grant to Jamaica. They are happy to state that this debt has not been increased. The income has exceeded the expenditure by £144 2s. 10d.; a result which is owing to a liberal donation of £200 by the senior treasurer, just previous to the closing of the account.

But in order to keep the expenditure within the income, large reductions have been made. In India alone the expenditure has been reduced by £2,625, in Ceylon by nearly £200, in Africa by nearly £1,000, in incidental and casual expenses about £150. In other respects the expenditure has been about the same as last year. With regard to the receipts, the Fund for General Purposes has improved by £560; arising partly from enlarged contributions by the auxiliaries, and partly from the amount of legacies received. There has also been an increase of nearly £100 for translations. On the other hand, the receipts for the sale of the various publications issued by the society have fallen off more than £150. The total receipts for all purposes, including £359 2s. 6d. towards the debt have been £19,776 13s. 1d.

It is therefore evident, after all the reductions that have been made, that nothing short of an income of £20,000 will suffice to maintain the society in its present position. If the income falls below this amount there will be either an increase of debt, or a further reduction in the number of your missionaries, both European and native, or the entire abandonment of one or more departments of the Mission. Your committee are determined, as far as they can avoid it, that the debt shall not be increased; but to diminish the number of missionaries by recalling Europeans would be no saving for one year at least, while it would cripple, if not destroy the mission where they laboured, and to abandon any field the committee are reluctant. But one of the other of these alternatives must be adopted unless the churches are prepared for more enlarged and systematic efforts.

The effect which the resolutions of the committee in regard to reduction of expenditure has had on the minds of the missionaries, has been seen in their communications published in the *Herald*. These communications are distressing. Very many of the churches have sympathized deeply with their brethren who are toiling in the field. Most urgent have been the requests from various quarters not to proceed any further, and some have proved the reality of their sympathy by sending up increased contributions. India, Africa, Havti, Trinidad, and the Bahamas, the east and the west, all loudly call for additional aid—a call rendered the more painfully interesting by the brightening prospects of the mission in those fields—and shall it be in vain?

What, then, remains to the friends of the society? A more just appreciation of the claims which the love of Christ and the souls of men have upon them—a holy and fervent zeal in the cause of God—and every where, throughout the whole denomination, increased and systematic organization for the gathering into the treasury of the Lord the gifts of his people. While we hope there is a growing interest in the cause, a spirit of prayer springing up all around, there must yet be a more combined effort, more unity of action, more individual effort, more local zeal, less dependence on the executive, and more of a consciousness in pastors, deacons, and members of our churches, that the work is their own, and that each and all should engage in it; and, above all, a simple but earnest reliance on God, who, in his divine promises, invites us to place entire trust in Him, and who will, if we seek it in earnest prayer, pour out the spirit of wisdom and liberality on the churches at home, refresh and gladden the hearts of missionaries abroad, and abundantly bless their efforts in turning the perishing multitudes of the heathen from darkness to light.

S. M. PETO, Esq., M.P., after expressing his regret that the long-tryed friend of the society, Mr. Gurney, was prevented, by continued indisposition, from being present, proceeded to read the Treasurer's account for the past year, the result of which showed a total of receipts amounting to £19,736, and of expenditure £19,632; the balance against the society being now £8,857 against £6,501 at the opening of the year. He also wished to observe, for the information of the meeting, that the total payments of the society, for the general purposes of the society, during the last year, was more than £4,000 less than it had been during the preceding year; and with regard to their being £130 less in debt than at the last anniversary, that result was owing entirely to the committee having, in various parts of the mission, made deductions to the extent of more than £4,000.

The Rev. W. WALTERS, of Preston, moved the first resolution, which was as follows:—

That this meeting, viewing the trials and difficulties incident to all efforts to extend the gospel in heathen lands, is deeply impressed with a sense of the dependence of Missionary Institutions for their existence and success on the great Head of the Church, and it would therefore devoutly acknowledge his goodness in sustaining this society through another year.

The Rev. W. FAREBROTHER (missionary from China, and a deputation from the London Missionary Society), next addressed the meeting. It was his intention, as briefly as he could, to give the meeting some information with regard to the Chinese mission; for unless those who had been personally engaged in it entered into the subject, he believed the congregations and churches at home could scarcely understand the toils and the dangers to which the missionaries were exposed. He had not to speak of some tiny island, with a population of 8,000 or 4,000, or of some wild, wandering tribes where the missionaries had to travel for miles to look for the people, but of a great empire, covering an area larger, he believed, than the whole of Europe, and containing a population of nearly 400,000,000. But when he spoke of China, some tremulousness always came over him, for so many contradictions and so many anomalies had been attached to the character of the Chinese people, that he trembled when he was called upon to give some account of them, within the space of some

half or three-quarters of an hour. In China, they found a people clothed in beautiful vestments, but offensive in their habits, ridiculously polite, and, again, most insulting and overbearing—a people spread over a country larger than the whole of Europe, and yet governed by a patriarchal form of Government! and passing on from generation to generation without any popular tumult, all bowing down with the most implicit obedience to the commands of their imperial father. They found the people in many parts highly civilized, and in others most barbarous, the makers of fabrics which our manufacturers in vain attempt to imitate; and while there was with them a prevalence of education, and institutions, which displayed consummate skill, and high powers of adaptation of government, they found them descending to the most silly and ridiculous practices, and profoundly ignorant of everything beyond their own empire. In the southern part of the empire he had seen the bodies of infants floating in the river, and had heard infanticide defended. Further north there was no trace of this horrible practice, but on the contrary he found there founding hospitals, where orphan children were educated, clothed, and supported by the voluntary contributions of the people. In some cases he had seen the poor left to die unnoticed and uncared for; in others, public halls were established, where provisions were served out, and their wants were attended to. So numerous were the contradictions and anomalies in the Chinese people, that it was difficult to give any intelligible account of them. But he would try. They had been accustomed to think and speak of China as though it were one comparatively small country, like England or France, composed of one people; whereas it was composed of sixteen or seventeen different nations, all living under one patriarchal form of government. That they had had so many and contradictory accounts of China was in consequence of those who gave them having visited different, and each only one, portion of the country. The Chinese had been represented as an unchangeable people. What could be more absurd than to suppose that thousands of men could reach a certain point and then stand still? China had had her changes as well as other countries [hear, hear]. She had had her periods of Augustan excellence and mediæval ignorance—she was now undergoing great changes, and it was more than probable that at no distant period that vast empire would crumble to pieces. Benevolent institutions had been known in China for centuries. When he was last at Shang-hai he visited a founding hospital, the report of which he now possessed. It was a singular and interesting document. The first eight or ten pages contained a history of the institution, by which it seemed that it had been founded originally by a rich merchant, about 140 years ago, but the endowment not being sufficient to meet the expenditure, an appeal was made annually to the public for its support. Then came the rules; the number of inmates; and next, the appeal to the public, in which the managers say, "Let all act from benevolent motives—let there be no compulsion." Then came an account of the receipts and disbursements; a list of subscribers under the head of "Account of the good and faithful who joyfully subscribe;" and then, unlike many of the societies here, there was a balance shown in its favour [hear, hear]. On one occasion, he went with Dr. Lockhart into a large building in one of the streets of Shang-hai, which, on inquiry, they were told was the Hall of the Imperial Humane Society for the Recovery of Drowning Persons; and in one room they were shown a great black board, on which were inscribed the names of several persons who had been rescued from the river. In another was a number of couches, or beds, to which the rescued persons were taken, in order that suspended animation might be restored. And in another were a number of coffins, and they were told that when persons who were drowned were not claimed within twelve hours, they were buried at the expense of the institution. There were, also, halls of universal benevolence, and no sooner had the mission established their medical hospital than the rumour of it reached a great city in the interior containing 3,000,000 of people, and in a short time the benevolent men of the city Luchow-foo established a similar hospital; and in a parcel of books which he had received from China about a month or six weeks ago, he found the first report of the hospital. The Chinese were not to be spoken of as savages just emerging from barbarism. They possessed institutions which we thought the boast of our own country, and our own age. The inquiry arose, how long these institutions had been in existence, and what was their origin? Some persons ascribed them to the Jesuit missionaries. But the missionaries had nothing to do with them. A native writer traced their founding hospitals back to 1,137 years before Christ. He (Mr. Farebrother) believed they had existed from the patriarchal times—that they sprung up in remote antiquity—that although heathenism had extinguished them in every other country, it had failed to do so in China [hear]. China claimed a higher antiquity than any other existing nation, and that claim must be considered. They divided their chronology into three periods—the certain, the probable, and the doubtful. The certain went back to the time of the Deluge—the probable to the time when, according to the Mosaic record, Adam was placed on the earth—the doubtful, which they did not believe, went back thousands of years, and was a mere fable. It was clear, beyond a doubt, that after the Deluge a body of men crossed the sterile plains of Asia, and found that deep rich alluvium where they commenced those works which had been the wonder of all ages. That emigration took place before the

alphabetical mode of writing was discovered, and they proceeded to form characters, which went on increasing until their language contained not less than 80,000 characters. The number of elementary characters was about 214, the majority of which were pictures of visible objects—the character for a man representing the spectacle of a man, the character for a door resembling a door, and the character for rice representing a heap of rice. They represented happiness by putting two simple characters together—the character for mouth and the character for a heap of rice, being of opinion that if a man had plenty of rice to eat, he ought to deem himself happy [a laugh]. Sorrow was represented by the character for boy, and the character for door; because the first time a boy turns his back upon his father's gate, he knows what sorrow is. No nation has retained so long, and in such purity, the knowledge of the true God as the Chinese, for idolatry did not prevail in China until about two centuries before the Christian era. Such was the country which had been undertaken as the field of missionary labour [hear, hear]. All was not sunshine in the life of a missionary. On his passage to Hong Kong, the vessel took fire, and the crew were fortunately picked up by another vessel, and arrived in safety at the place of their destination. If ever he felt the value of the Holy Scriptures, it was in the midst of the danger, when he called to mind the words, "Lo! I am with you to the end of the world" [cheers].

The Rev. J. J. BROWN, of Reading, moved the second resolution, in a speech of great power, which elicited much applause from the meeting. We regret that we have not space to report it. The result was as follows:—

That, while deploring the losses which this Society has sustained in the death of their valued and honoured brethren, the Rev. J. Davies and the Rev. Joseph Merri, and the removal by sickness of others from their sphere of labour, this meeting would humbly hope that such events may lead to more earnest prayer to God, for the abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit on those remaining in the field; and that by a more devout and self-denying consecration of themselves to God, his people in connection with every Evangelical Missionary Society may, by their liberality, not only supply the places thus rendered vacant, but lead to the wider announcement of the gospel of salvation.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. J. F. NEWMAN, of Shortwood.

The Rev. J. WERN, of Ipswich, engaged in prayer. J. L. PHILLIPS, Esq., of Melksham, moved:—

That the spiritual destitution which, to so large an extent, prevails over the world, coupled with the painful fact, that many offers to this society for mission service have, during the past year, been declined, from inadequacy of funds, ought to arouse the churches connected with it to holy and patient effort, that in the coming year the Committee may be enabled to send help to missionaries bending beneath the weight of labour and years, and to carry to the famishing heathen that bread of life which cometh down from heaven.

He said he would not yield to any man in his attachment to the cause of Christian missions, and he expressed his conviction that a great work had to be done at home. They must join in their social prayers, and hold private communion also with their Heavenly Father, for his blessing to rest upon his servants; and then, as God had blessed them, give of their property to carry out the missionary enterprise. It must be a personal thing; they must not deal in generalities, but look into their own breasts, and ask what God would have them individually to do. In that way a noble example would be set to the country at large; the vacant mission stations would be speedily supplied, and each of them would realize the truth of that scripture, "Them that honour God, God will honour."

The Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST W. NOEL seconded the motion, which called upon them, he said, to recognise the fact of the fearful destitution of a large part of the world with respect to spiritual knowledge and Christian privileges. That destitution expressed more than at first met the ear and struck upon the mind. It expressed the dreadful moral evils which had to be combated by those engaged in the good work of Christian missions. The more those evils were contemplated by any intelligent and humane person, not to speak of those who were possessed of faith, the more it must be seen to be a righteous and benevolent attempt to try and mitigate them. Wherever there existed spiritual destitution, involving as it did great moral mischiefs, it ought to be seriously encountered by those who had been redeemed themselves, and who hoped to be the possessors of an inheritance above [cheers]. He would not exaggerate the objects of their meeting that day, because he considered that whatever were their value, they had an earlier duty to discharge to their own native country. How well it would be if they could see every village in this country, where they had no reason to think the gospel was faithfully preached, visited by some faithful disciple of the Redeemer to proclaim the truth in love. It should seem not to be a difficult task in this day, in which there were many thousands of Christians who had some leisure and ability, so to organize Home Missions as to increase the efficiency of their pastors. It should seem not to be difficult that throughout those villages, and with respect to the artisans and mechanics of our cities and large towns, who were now untaught in the truths of the gospel, the message of mercy should be made known to them. He should, however, most deeply regret any diminution of the labours of that society on the continent of Europe. He thought they should rather augment those labours from year to year. Those great nations, which, like England, were centres of influence, if once evangelized, would carry the gospel to earth's remotest boundaries, and ought not to be neglected if they had the power to attend to them [hear]. Nor did he think that any intelligent friend of the society would regret the very moderate share of attention which the directors had given to the colonies. It was a small item in the expenditure, and was well

bestowed, especially when it was known that those who were evangelists among our settlers—in the Canadas, for instance, where pastors were so much wanted—were added to those already in the work. But the field of labour to which he wished to direct attention was that which this society had always selected and cherished with peculiar affection, and it was well worthy of the place it occupied in their regard. To him it appeared that the efforts of Christian men were more demanded for India than perhaps for any other part of the heathen world. But while he said that, he was not insensible to that vast field of labour to which Mr. Farebrother had directed their regard. China, with its innumerable millions—its advanced civilization—its capability of reading, and the facilities afforded, now that the edict of the Emperor permitted Christianity to be preached legally throughout the entire empire, together with the fact, that their present prevailing religion or superstition—the Buddhist—had been almost exclusively the result of the circulation of books, did call upon them loudly to direct attention to that great field of effort [hear]. But India was a part of the British empire. The Hindoos were our fellow-subjects, too long associated with us in many respects not to have received a little fostering care with respect to religion. The Hindoos were the slaves of the most complicated superstition the world had ever seen, and a superstition that had degraded them. Their gods were monsters; their books were legends of impurity; their priests were their leaders in all iniquity; caste was a diabolical chain, holding them in servitude, inertness of mind, and foul superstition; and in that country, now so long under the British Crown, what had this nation done, as a nation, to bring the inhabitants to a purer faith, or to better morals? They knew, as well as we did, that we were a nation unrivalled in war, they had heard the achievements of our army from Calcutta to Cabool, they knew the thunder of our cannon, they knew that we beat them in every treaty, that we were as clever in negotiations as we were bold in war, and that we were superior to them in arts, as well as in arms. But, what have we done to make them know that we love the Redeemer, that we were the heirs of heaven, and anxious for the salvation of souls? [hear.] Very few of the great men of India had been distinguished by a regard for the gospel of Christ. He was not an advocate for the extension of the gospel to that country by grants of public money; but, at the same time, it must be legitimate matter of deep regret, that many eminent men, both civilians and military, who had been ornaments to England by their talents and civic virtues, had left no record of anything they did for the gospel of Christ, in a land to which they owed their fame and their fortunes [hear]. It was deeply to be deplored that, up to this day, if the superstition of India was impenetrable, we must attribute the fact to the want of our own zeal, and the laxity of our own efforts [cheers]. Under these circumstances, if the missionaries could report no success, if no conversions had taken place, if their enterprise seemed hopeless, if the difficulties with which they had to contend were insurmountable, and if nothing but disaster and defeat had attended their exertions year after year, he inclined to think that there was no one in the present assembly—he was almost sure that there was not one on the platform who would not say, "Let them labour on, if it is only to testify to our Indian fellow-subjects that we are the servants of Jesus Christ" [loud cheers]. There were many things that now tended to aid the efforts of the missionaries there. The Hindoo, he imagined, was unable to protect himself against the influence of the prestige of British greatness. When he contrasted England with his own country, he found us superior in intellect, in energy, in power, in civilization, in morals, in humanity, in social comforts, in domestic happiness,—superior in all. And it was almost impossible that an intelligent Brahmin should not feel a disposition to question whether the religion which had produced such virtues must not be the true one,—whether his own, which had involved the natives in such moral degradation, might not after all be false [hear]. There were many things, also, tending with irresistible power to lessen that caste which had wound round their souls like a chain. Every Sepoy in the army almost necessarily lost caste. Every man among them who paid any attention to science, necessarily renounced the prejudices of caste. Besides the common comforts of civilized society were tending in the same direction. An Indian friend had informed him that one article of European luxury was doing more in reality to overturn idolatry than all our missionaries, and that was "Indian pale ale" [laughter]. Its use was absolutely prohibited by their laws, but they would indulge in it—fashion was more powerful than superstition, and each one who indulged in it in secret—or in any other similar European enjoyment—became afraid of the loss of caste, and must necessarily become an enemy to the institution which he dreaded. Thus civilization was tending to undermine the superstitions of the land. If, therefore, in this crisis of its history, the missionaries were enabled, by their numbers, their intelligence, and their zeal, to bring the truths of the gospel to bear upon their minds, much yet might be hoped for from India. There were various other collateral circumstances which materially aided the mission cause in that land at the present time. Amongst these he named the Act of the East India Government, which provided that no native, on changing his faith, should henceforth be subject to the penalties which have hitherto attended it, and the efforts of their brethren of other denominations, especially referring to the earnest desire of the Bishops of Madras and Bombay, and the Metropolitan in Calcutta, to see the gospel of Christ

triumphant there. His object in bringing these subjects forward was, to urge the meeting to consider whether it was not a serious duty imposed upon them by the Great Head of the Church, systematically and perseveringly to support the brethren in that portion of the work of God [hear]. Could it be for the glory of their Lord that these two nations should be attached together like a living body and a dead one, and that this corrupt mass should still putrefy and rot, year after year, while in conjunction with the most enlightened and intelligent nation under heaven—a nation to whom He has given such signal advantages, temporal as well as spiritual? [cheers.] He urged, therefore, upon the meeting, and especially upon his brethren on the platform, that they should bring, systematically and periodically, before their respective churches, the claims of their brethren in British India. It was an arduous work in which they were engaged; and, while he did not forget that there were other, and, perhaps, larger claims at home, and that many of their churches were poor, yet he thought it was not too much to expect from the 900 combined in that good work, that they should tell the directors that they should have a sum at least somewhat advancing year by year to meet this urgent necessity [hear]. India would be the Redeemer's some day, and, probably, soon its superstitions would be removed. If India were converted, and were to send forth its missionaries to Persia, Thibet, China, and the islands of the Asiatic Sea, would it be a consolation to the churches at home to think that other hands had laboured for that end, that other minds had thought of it, and other's funds had contributed to it, and that they had done, alas! but little to help forward that great work? Their missionaries had been honourably distinguished hitherto. Nearly half the conversions to Christ in Calcutta and Bengal, in the last few years, had been those which God had permitted their missionaries to win. Let not, then, the Church hold back; and, if they were poor, let them recollect, that on that very account was their gift appreciated by Him who knew the motives by which they were actuated, and who regarded the widow's mite as a more acceptable offering than all the contributions of the rich [cheers].

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman followed, and, after singing the Doxology, the Rev. T. Thomas, of Pontypool, engaged in prayer, and the meeting separated.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the friends and supporters of this society was held at Exeter Hall, on Monday, and was numerously attended, the spacious hall and the galleries being filled. Dr. Bunting, the Rev. Dr. Newton, and other ministers who take a lead in the society's operations, were received on their coming on the platform with hearty plaudits, mingled with hisses; and it was evident that the meeting would not be of an unanimous character. The Right Hon. Fox Maule, M.P., presided; and, after singing and prayer, which was offered by the Rev. Dr. Newton,

The CHAIRMAN said, nothing had ever given him greater satisfaction than presiding at that meeting, by which he was enabled to show the deep sympathy he felt for the Wesleyan body, as well as the gratitude he felt for the interest they took in the body to which he belonged [the Free Church of Scotland], at a time such interest, evinced by such a Christian body as the Wesleyans, was of the utmost importance to that infant church. This missionary society had, as usual, taken the lead in the work of evangelization, and he was glad that they had assembled again with unanimity. Although light ruffles had passed over the surface of their body, yet these trifling breezes had passed away ["No, no," and responsive cries of "Yes, yes."] And the great balance-sheet of charity which they showed proved that the heart was as sound as ever it was [cheers]. He congratulated them that in all parts of the world their missionaries were to be found, distinguished for zeal, for courage, for fidelity, for purity of doctrine, and example in conduct. He was also glad to find that while their missionaries had been thus zealous abroad, their endeavours at home had resulted in an increase of the funds. It was not for him in such a meeting as this to enter into the question of missions, but if he were asked what was the first step to be taken to civilize the heathen, his answer was, send them the gospel. They had heard much within the last few weeks on a subject which that society had at the heart's core—the slave-trade. They had heard it stated that squadrons must be withdrawn. So long as they kept the African in ignorance, squadrons they might have, perhaps squadrons they must have, but squadrons would be of little avail. Open up the passage to the heart of Africa, send missionaries among them to teach them Christianity, and then they would not only effect the great object which a Christian country should always have in view, that of Christianizing the whole world; but they would effect that which every subject of this realm should always have in view, that of economizing in a legitimate way the burdens that were imposed upon them. Look at France and the other states of Europe. To what might be attributed all the convulsions that had taken place there?—to what might they attribute the state of society existing there at present but that there religion was mocked and religious opinion was sneered at? The low standard of religion there led to a low standard of morality, and that had led to a low standard of everything that ought to be regarded as binding man to man. Until religion, pure

religion, took its hold upon those countries they could not hope to see them return to a fixed and desirable state of things. And it was by their missionaries carrying the pure gospel to the countries of Europe as well as to the heathen that they could achieve good in this direction. They would hear from other lips the details of the operations of the society, but he could not help congratulating them that their contributions for the year had amounted to nearly £112,000—an amount which was indeed encouraging.

The report of the committee was then read by the Revs. ELIJAH HOOLE and Dr. BRECHIM. It stated, "That it was the grateful duty of the committee to announce an improvement in the financial condition of the society, when compared with their circumstances at this time last year. The debt of the society was then stated to be £13,358 16s. 1d., arising from the deficiencies of the income as compared with the expenditure for the years 1847 and 1848. The debt of the society was now reduced to £10,841 13s. 2d. This reduction of the debt had been effected, in part, by a small diminution in the expenditure of the year 1849; but chiefly by a very large augmentation in the income, when compared with that of the previous year.

	£	s.	d.
The total amount of income, received from all sources, for 1849, had been	111,685	13	6
The expenditure for 1849 had been	109,168	10	7
Balance of income over expenditure	2,517	2	11
Deduct this amount from the deficiency reported last year; viz	13,358	16	1
And there remained a debt of	10,841	13	2

"The receipts from the foreign auxiliaries and from Ireland were rather below those of the former year; but, happily, much less so than might have been anticipated from the depressing circumstances which are known to exist. The receipts at the Mission-house, and from the home districts, exhibited an increase. The Juvenile Offerings contributed a fair average amount to the income of the year; the donations of several liberal friends, on annuity for life, and the amount accruing through lapsed annuities, exhibit a considerable increase; and the items of legacies and colonial grants had far exceeded the average of previous years. The following are the particulars:—

The total ordinary receipts at the Mission-house, and from the districts in England, Scotland, and Wales, have been	£75,167	14	9
The Hibernian Missionary Society	4,232	10	8
The Juvenile Christmas Offerings	3,894	5	0
Total ordinary home income	83,294	10	5
Contributions of Foreign Auxiliary Societies	11,830	0	9
Colonial grants	5,907	5	0
Legacies	6,065	15	8
Donations on annuity	1,800	0	0
Lapsed annuities	1,162	8	6
Dividends, interest, &c.	1,625	13	2
	£111,685	13	6

"In their anxiety to economize the expenditure, the committee had continued to decline sending a supply to many stations on which vacancies had occurred, and had also declined to avail themselves of very inviting new openings for usefulness. The committee were encouraged by the income of the past year to hope that this restrictive system will not need to be maintained much longer. The continued exhibition of a liberality and diligence on the part of the supporters of the society similar to that of last year would soon diffuse new life and vigour throughout the missions, which were already conferring the highest blessings on North and South Ceylon, India, Australia, Africa, and other portions of the earth; nor would other regions, such as China, towards which the committee scarcely dare to look, be much longer without some evidence that the object of the Wesleyan Missionary Society is to take its proper part in spreading the knowledge of Christ and the enjoyment of scriptural holiness throughout the whole world."

Mr. HEALD, M.P., moved the first resolution:—

That the Report, of which an abstract has been read, be received and published; and that this meeting offers its grateful acknowledgments to Almighty God for his continued sanction and blessing vouchsafed to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and other similar Protestant and Evangelical institutions.

The society, he said, was not diminishing; its influence was not decreasing, its friends were not withdrawing. The evidence was that its funds were increasing. But more than that, its operations were everywhere crowned with success.

The Rev. Dr. HANNAH seconded the motion, in doing which he observed that it was a beautiful thing that the resolution included other kindred Protestant institutions as well as their own. In supporting this missionary society they had no sectarian spirit. They hoped all such societies would prosper, and be productive of good. He trusted that God would bless them all, and that they would continue to confide in Him, and always look to Him for aid.

The CHAIRMAN was about to put the resolution, when

Mr. GROSEJEAN, one of the secretaries of the Wesleyan Corresponding Committee, got up in the body of the hall, and intimated his desire to propose an amendment. His appearance was the signal for a considerable uproar. The chairman, however, referred to the ticket of admission, which pledged all persons using it to abide by his decision, and peremptorily refusing to receive an amendment which, he said, could only be brought forward in a controversial spirit, called upon Mr. Grosejean to sit down under pain of immediate expulsion. Mr. Grosejean appeared anxious to persevere, vociferating in loud tones, "Justice," "An Englishman's right," and so on, and as he was backed by a pretty large sprinkling of a formidable interruption of the proceed-

ings appeared to be threatened. The police were at length called in, and under the convincing arguments which they used the contumacious gentleman was prevailed upon to resume his seat, and the resolution was then carried by a large majority.

Mr. S. M. Peto, M.P., moved the next resolution, to the effect that the circumstances of special encouragement and promise by which several of the principal missions of the society in heathen lands are now placed impose upon the society the imperative obligation to make every effort within its power for the purpose of raising those missions to a state of greater vigour and efficiency.

The Rev. W. CHALMERS, of the Marylebone Presbyterian church, in seconding, stated that four-fifths of the world were now in heathen darkness; and at the rate they were going on now it would take twenty thousand years to evangelize the globe [hear, hear].

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution in the affirmative only, and no opposition was offered to it.

Mr. COWAN, M.P., moved the next resolution, expressive of gratitude for the increased resources placed at the disposal of the committee by the augmentation of the society's income during the past year; and cherishing the hope that the same spirit of liberality may continue to manifest itself, and speedily render the funds more fully commensurate with the wants of the great work they are intended to promote.

The Rev. W. BEVAN, of Wolverhampton, in seconding, observed that the society was in every way prosperous. They had reason to rejoice, and take their present prosperity as an omen of better days, and more abundant blessings to come. He found that during the year there had been on circuits an increase of 34; of chapels and preaching stations an increase of 690; of missionaries and assistants an increase of 34; of other stipendiary agents an increase of 781; of unpaid agents an increase of 8,087; of church members an increase of 5,163; and of schools an increase of 4,230.

The Rev. PETER M'OWAN, of Liverpool, supported the resolution, which was then put and carried.

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON, M.P., moved the next resolution, recommending that, in connexion with a more vigorous and extensive application of the other divinely-instituted means, more earnest prayer be offered that those means may fully answer the end for which they have been appointed by the great Head of the Church.

Mr. G. SMITH, of Camborne, came forward to second the resolution.

A VOICE—Is that the Mr. George Smith who wrote the tract against the expelled ministers? [Uproar.]

Mr. SMITH then proceeded to address the meeting amidst great uproar, which rendered him inaudible even to those who were close to him. In the course of his speech the Rev. Mr. Griffith, one of the expelled ministers, rose in the body of the hall, and exclaimed, "You would not meet us."

The Rev. Dr. NEWTON added a few words, after which the resolution was put, and the collection was then made.

The Rev. C. PREST, of Hull, moved—

That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the ministers who have advocated the cause of the society throughout the year; to the treasurers, secretaries, and committees—

["No, no"]. He hoped they would listen:—

of the auxiliary and branch societies [laughter]; to the ladies' associations and committees, for their zealous co-operation; to the juvenile societies; and especially to the collectors of the Christmas and New Year's offerings, and the kind friends who countenanced them, for the handsome amount received from this delightful source of income; to the missionaries, officers, and contributors on the foreign stations, for their practical interest in the maintenance of the funds of the parent society, in addition to the support they have afforded to their own local institutions; and to the members of other Christian communities who have kindly aided the operations of this society.

The Rev. JOHN SCOTT seconded, and this resolution was carried in the same manner as the former ones.

The Rev. JOHN BOWERS moved the next resolution, which was a vote of thanks to the committee and to the general treasurers and general secretaries. The rev. gentleman, who was much interrupted and hissed at, spoke at some length, vindicating the conduct of these officers from the aspersions which, it seemed, some persons wished to cast on them, and expressed his deep sense of humility that Christian men, who were of the same household, who had eaten of the same bread, and drank of the same cup, should be found to lift up their hands against them, and that too before strangers. But though it was painful to know that in certain quarters this society was viewed with hostility, it was a source of gratitude to know that Providence had over-ruled those proceedings for the advancement of the society's interests.

The resolution having been seconded,

The CHAIRMAN said the resolutions that had preceded this were founded on the great principles of support to the society, and he conceived that there could be no reasonable ground for opposing them. But it was in vain for him to conceal from himself, stranger as he was, that there were two opinions on the present resolution. He should, therefore, put the affirmative and the negative to the meeting.

The resolution was then put and carried by an immense majority.

On the motion of Mr. CORDEROY, seconded by the Rev. JOHN HALL, both of whom were much interrupted, a resolution was also carried, thanking the

ministers for their excellent sermons preached during the anniversary.

Mr. THOMAS FARMER then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. HEALD.

The Rev. Dr. BUNTING took the opportunity of saying, there was no doubt of what was the general feeling of that society. The vast majority, he believed, were ashamed that there should have been found persons so wanting in common propriety, and before strangers too, to expose their own want of everything that evinced proper feeling. But the feeling of pain which that had occasioned him had been greatly removed by the manner in which those resolutions, which were most calculated to call forth what little difference there was, had been carried. The sense of the society, deny it who could, was in favour of those resolutions. There was a small and miserable sprinkling who had the presumption to lift their hands against them. Therefore, he felt thankful that the strangers who had honoured them with their company that day had had the opportunity of seeing what was the prevalent feeling of the Methodist connexion.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN said, he felt that to all in that meeting his thanks were due, for the comparatively easy task which he had had to perform that day. But he could not conclude that meeting without expressing, and he trusted as a stranger he might be allowed to express, the deep sense of sorrow which came over him when he perceived that the shades of difference hung over that large and influential society. He would say to all parties that he trusted they would call to mind the vast use which that society was to all the world, and the deep responsibility which would rest on the one hand with those who interfered unnecessarily with matters with which they had nothing to do [hear, hear]; and, on the other hand, with those who refused information on matters on which information ought to be given. He earnestly implored them all to remember the responsibility which rested upon them in the maintenance of the public utility and character of the great Wesleyan body before the world.

The meeting then separated at half-past four o'clock, having lasted four hours and a half.

WEEKLY TRACT SOCIETY.—The second annual meeting of this society was held on Thursday evening, the 25th ult., at Calthorpe-street School-room, Gray's-inn-road (Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel's), over which Joseph R. Taylor, Esq., presided. The proceedings were opened by prayer by the Rev. E. Whimper, after which the Chairman delivered an appropriate address. The Rev. W. H. Elliott, the secretary, read the Report, which was highly encouraging, and showed an increase in the funds during the past year, as well as an extension of the society's operations. It also detailed pleasing instances of usefulness of weekly publications, and earnestly called upon the Christian public to aid the society in extending its benevolent efforts in behalf of the working classes. The Rev. C. A. M. Shepherd moved the first resolution, embodying the adoption of the Report, which was seconded by Rev. J. Robertson, M.A.; after which the Rev. Edward Pizey, B.A., rector of St. Peter's, Saffron-hill, moved, and the Rev. John Branch seconded, the next resolution, which was as follows; viz.—

That, while the meeting feels grateful for the measure of success which has attended the society's past labours, and views with regret the social and moral condition of the working classes, the wide spread of irreligion among them, together with the contaminating influence of numerous publications, it deems the means employed by this society eminently adapted to promote their best interests, and would urge the importance of increasing efforts on their behalf.

The third resolution, which was moved by Joseph Payne, Esq., barrister-at-law, and seconded by Rev. E. Whimper, appealed to the benevolent sympathies of Christians in behalf of the funds of the society, and urged the importance of continued prayer to crown its efforts with success. The Rev. Mr. Hatch moved, and M. Murphy, Esq., seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which having been duly acknowledged, and the Doxology sung, the meeting separated.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUNDAY-SCHOOL INSTITUTE.—The anniversary meeting of this Institution took place on Friday night, at St. Martin's-hall, Long Acre, when the chair was occupied by John Labouchere, Esq. During the past year they had increased the number of the Sunday-schools and the Sunday-school teachers. The Institution had established fifty-seven schools, attended and instructed by 1,642 teachers. During the year the funds received had been £1,168 9s. 4d.; the sum expended, £1,164 2s. 1d.; leaving a balance in hand of £4 7s. 3d.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCRIPTURE READERS' ASSOCIATION.—On Monday, the sixth annual general meeting of the friends and supporters of the above society was held at the Hanover-square Rooms. The Lord Bishop of Lichfield presided, and was sustained by Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., and a numerous body of clergymen. The Right Rev. Prelate, in his opening address, congratulated the meeting upon the large measure of success which had attended the exertions of the Committee during the past year. Objections, indeed, had been raised against Scripture Readers, in high and responsible quarters, but he believed they had been satisfactorily refuted, and, for his own part, he had founded two auxiliary associations in his diocese, and this, he thought, was the most conclusive proof he could adduce of his interest in the movement, and his approval of its operations. The report stated that the funds of the society had increased, as had, likewise, the spheres of its labours, during the past year. They had now a permanent income of nearly £5,000

a year. The sum received from the local auxiliaries had exceeded that subscribed during the previous twelve months by the sum of £750, and 230 subscribers had been added to the list. A "ladies' fund" had been instituted for three or more additional readers. The society had now 97 agents employed, and though during the time of the cholera 30 readers had come in contact with 1,468 cases, there had not been a single death among the former.—The visits paid were—to members of the Church of England, 200,280; to Roman Catholics, 23,850; to Dissenters, 34,840; and to persons attending no place of worship, 96,314—making a total of 355,284 visits. The receipts amounted, on the whole, to £8,072, and the expenditure, the largest item of which was salaries, £7,087, left a balance of £236. On the motion of J. Labouchere, Esq., seconded by the Rev. Mr. Miller, the report was adopted.

NAVAL AND MILITARY BIBLE SOCIETY.—On Monday, the 70th anniversary meeting of this society was held at the Hanover-square Rooms. The Marquis of Cholmondeley occupied the chair, and near him, on the platform, were General Sir George Pollock, Admiral Harcourt, Colonel Tomkyns, Colonel Powney, Captain Pakenham, R.N., Major Little, Colonel Eckford, Captain Ferguson, R.N., Rev. E. Pizey, Rev. J. Craig, Rev. C. D. Gribble, Rev. W. Holder-ness, Major Rutherford, Captain Barlow, R.N., Major Montague, and others. It appeared from the report, which was read by Major Sotheby, C.B., that during the past year the society had furnished 1,000 Bibles to the British army and 300 to the East India Company's troops, in addition to 88 to barrack and guard-rooms, and 90 to the Royal Marines at Portsmouth. It had also supplied 1,676 copies to 39 of her Majesty's ships, including 100 to the four going out under Captain Austin in search of Sir John Franklin, to whom the society had given an ample supply in 1845, at Sir John's special request. Amongst merchant seamen generally, 12,137 copies had been circulated, and to canal boatmen, barge-men, and rivermen, 2,231 copies. Large numbers had also been distributed at various ports throughout the kingdom. The total number issued during the past year was 17,598, making a grand total since the establishment of the society of 517,691. The receipts of the year had amounted to £2,628 7s. 4d., and the disbursements to £2,614 17s. 7d., leaving a small balance at present in the treasurer's hands. Upon the motion of the Rev. E. Pizey, seconded by Captain Pakenham, R.N., the report was unanimously agreed to; and various resolutions founded upon it were also submitted to the meeting, and carried by acclamation. Amongst the speakers were the Rev. J. Craig, the Rev. C. D. Gribble, Admiral Harcourt, and others.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS OF ALL NATIONS.—Rev. Ridley H. Herschell proposes that the opportunity of the presence of Christians from all parts of the world in London at the exhibition of 1851, shall be taken advantage of for a mutual profit and intercourse. Meetings might be held in various parts of the metropolis, at which Christians from all parts of the world might communicate information respecting the religious state and spiritual wants of the country they come from; receiving and imparting advice, and sympathy, and consolation. By this mutual intercourse, a spirit of love and unity may be stirred up, such as has not existed since apostolic times. He proposes that the invitation should be to those only who believe the Scriptures to be the word of God, and who hold the cardinal doctrines of the divinity of Christ and justification by faith. He further requests those who sympathize in the above proposal, should communicate with him as soon as possible; and that brethren in India, America, and on the continent of Europe, should endeavour to secure its republication (and translation where necessary) in the local journals.

BLAKENEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—On Tuesday, the 16th of April, the Rev. Thomas Young, late of Hackney College, was ordained pastor of the Independent church at Blakeney. Rev. William Copley, of Blakeney, commenced the solemn services by reading the Scriptures and prayer; Rev. Samuel Ransom, Classical Tutor of Hackney College, delivered the introductory discourse; Rev. Thomas Manud, of Stonehouse, proposed the questions and received the confession of faith; Rev. Joseph Hyatt, of Gloucester, offered the ordination prayer; and Rev. John Adey, of London, Mr. Young's late pastor, gave a most practical and affectionate charge. In the evening, Rev. E. E. Elliot, of Sydney, commenced the service by reading the Scriptures and prayer; and Rev. Benjamin Parsons, of Ebley, preached the sermon to the people. Although the day was very wet, the chapel was well-filled on each occasion, and the services throughout were deeply solemn and interesting. The Revs. J. Reynolds, of Gloucester, W. B. Jenkyn, of Little Deane, and J. J. Dunlop, of Painswick, assisted in the services.

ACCEPTANCE OF CALL.—Mr. Thomas Barras, of the General Baptist College, Leicester, having, with the concurrence of the committee, accepted a unanimous invitation from the church at Fleet and Holbeach, Lincolnshire, to the ministerial office in connexion with the Rev. F. Chamberlain, entered upon his pastoral labours on Sunday, April 21st.

The Preston Chronicle states that certain parties whose premises had been robbed, went to Liverpool to consult a clairvoyant!

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

DEBATES.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

At the noon sitting of the House of Commons, on Wednesday week, the second reading of the Juvenile Offenders' Bill was moved by Mr. M. MILNES. The measure was designed to remove from the local magistracy the discretion of inflicting corporal punishment, and, at the same time, to extend their summary jurisdiction over offenders below the age of fifteen, when charged with minor offences. Provisions for the establishment of industrial schools, to be applied to the reformation of juvenile culprits, were also contained in the bill, which the hon. member supported in a speech of great length, by a large mass of evidence and argument. He proposed to make parents more responsible, by enabling magistrates to summon parents who, by evil treatment, or evil example, lead their offspring to commit crimes; an innovation suggested by high legal authorities—Mr. Matthew Davenport Hill; Mr. Bullock, the judge; Mr. Russell, the prison-inspector; Mr. Rushton, the Liverpool magistrate; and Lieutenant Tracy. The practice is found to work well in Scotland under Sir William Rae's Act. A permissive provision is made, under which magistrates may establish industrial schools for offenders after the first conviction. Institutions of this character have for years had admirable effects in France (at Metz), Belgium, and Holland; and more lately in England (in the philanthropic societies near London and Warwick), and at Aberdeen. A very remarkable diminution of crime has been effected at Aberdeen by Mr. Sheriff Watson's educational refuge. Mr. Poynder has calculated that the cost of juvenile criminals through the country is £645,000, and the cost is gradually increasing.

Sir GEORGE GREY dissected Mr. Milnes's bill, with the object of showing its impractical character. The first part supersedes Sir John Pakington's bill, with the difference that it is wholly silent with regard to details. The proposed power for magistrates to abstain from committing on the first offence, is already enjoyed by them, and sometimes exercised. The proposed jurisdiction over adults gives grave and serious powers to any two magistrates; and the summary powers to send juvenile offenders into the army or navy could not be exercised in this country—a person so forced on the army would not be amenable to the Mutiny Act. The cost of the proposed schools is to fall wholly on the country. The schools hold out great advantages to criminal children and their parents. Such schools had better depend on private charities, like the Philanthropic Institution, which acts on the principle, but without any ostentation. The machinery of the bill is perfectly impracticable. A committee is sitting upstairs, and the House had better wait for their labours.

Sir GEORGE STRICKLAND moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. Its promoter is said to be a great poet: certainly it contains a great deal of imagination, but neither rhyme nor reason. Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD seconded the amendment.

The bill was supported by Mr. SIMEON with practical argumentation; and by Mr. HEADLAM, who defended it from Sir George Grey's criticism on mere details. Mr. TRELAUNI supported its principle, but not the details. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON begged to say, he was no party to the bill: as it stood it could not be carried out. Colonel THOMPSON was afflicted to note, that while corporal punishment is losing its hold in the army, it is creeping into the civil service.

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES rose to withdraw his bill; but was assailed by noises which he could not understand: he sat down, rose again, and was again put down. In the end, amidst much confusion, the formal motion for grounding the amendment was carried without division, and the amendment was then carried substantively. Thus the bill was lost.

AFFIRMATION BILL.

It had been understood that the main discussion of the Affirmation Bill should be taken on the motion for going into committee: Mr. PAOR WOOD, therefore, briefly supported his motion to take that step, on Wednesday week, by a speech enumerating the cases of grievance which have suggested his attempt at legislation. The bankrupt Halstead—a man of so good character that at last a measure of general effect was passed with the real intention of meeting his case—was imprisoned four years and a half on account of his conscientious scruples. Harwood, a prosecutor, was imprisoned, and the prisoner suffered to escape. Another man was committed to gaol for ten days on refusal to swear in a case where the offender would not have been punished so severely. An independent minister saw a Lascar rush on his child and attempt to violate her; he refused to swear; the judge and jury were contented with the child's evidence alone, and the Lascar was convicted; but if he had killed the child on the spot, he would have escaped harmless from the court. A lady refused in court to swear, and consented to give evidence not on oath before arbitrators, agreeing to pay costs of the arbitration; those costs ate up her income for nearly three years, and during that time she had to live on her friends. Mr. Wood mentioned, that of the seventeen lawyers who voted on the former occasion, fourteen voted with him; and both the late and the present Lord Chief-Justice are on his side. At present, Quakers, Moravians, and Separatists, may avoid taking the oath; now, although he has made very minute inquiries after Separatists, he has never been able to discover either a congregation or a single member of that sect. The bill was proposed

to extend, not to the United Kingdom only, but also to the colonies; and with reference to the colonies he might mention that last year in the Honduras there had been no fewer than seven or eight Independent ministers fined in sums of £20, £30, and £40, because they could not conscientiously take an oath to serve on juries, and that one of them had been committed to the common gaol for a period of six weeks, for the same offence. He asked the House, then, in the name of common sense, common benevolence, and religious liberty, to concur with the 3,000 petitioners who had prayed them to extend the provisions of the bill to all who entertained conscientious objections to the taking of an oath [hear, hear].

Mr. GOULBURN opposed the measure, upon the old grounds, and pushed the principle of his opposition to its extreme consequence; rather than add to the existing absurdities which the House has already passed, he would retract, and repeal that odious law of which so many people already take advantage. He moved that the bill be committed that day six months.

Mr. WOOD had the support of Mr. COCKBURN and Sir EDWARD BUXTON; Mr. GOULBURN was joined by Mr. NEWDEGATE. On a division, the amendment putting off the committee was carried, by the inconsiderable majority of 148 to 129. The supporters of the bill received the announcement of the numbers by which it was lost with much cheering.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES' BILL.

On Thursday week the House of Commons again went into committee on this bill. The matters discussed were a restriction in clause 17 on the power of altering judicial salaries; the revived subject of colonial boundaries, in connexion with Earl Grey's promise that convicts shall not be sent into New South Wales; and the General Assembly proposed in clause 30.

The restriction on reducing judicial salaries was opposed by Mr. ROEBUCK altogether; but he consented to an improvement of the clause, by the omission of words which placed any savings made at the disposal of the Queen.

The boundary question in connexion with the non-extension of convictism was recalled to attention by Mr. DENISON. The colony of New South Wales, unless some positive boundary be assigned, extends indefinitely to the northwards; yet Earl Grey has promised, that if the legislature object no more convicts shall be sent to any place within their boundaries; this might in future prevent any district to the north being set apart for convicts. Lord JOHN RUSSELL explained, that the bill expressly gives power to detach territories from New South Wales, and erect them into separate colonies. Thus, Moreton Bay may be made a separate colony ready to receive convicts, if New South Wales be averse.

The novelty of a Federative Assembly was opposed by Mr. VERNON SMITH, as unlikely to be of use, and as quite uncalled for by that colonial opinion on which Government so much insists when defending the single Chamber. Lord JOHN RUSSELL adhered to these clauses, because they are permissive only: a general desire for a Federative Assembly may yet spring up in two or three years, and then it might be inconvenient to lack the powers. Customs-duties varying at the ports of the respective colonies would be an evil much to be avoided. Mr. ROEBUCK objected to the frame of the clauses, as entirely setting aside the great principle of federation—equality. They should act in all these matters upon the principle that progress is at work in Australia—a new and great world is forming there, which requires prospective legislation. Mr. DISRAELI concurred in Mr. Roebuck's objections; and added, that his objections proceed from a sympathy with Lord John's prescient theory of federation, to which the omission of the essential quality of federation—equality—is antagonistic. Lord JOHN RUSSELL would take this apparent departure from equality into serious consideration, with a view to some proposition meeting the views of Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Disraeli. But Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH recurred to Mr. Vernon Smith's objections against the principle of the Assembly; and Mr. ADDERLEY enforced the general objections by additional and detailed criticism of the clauses, which, he maintained, will practically be compulsory. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH took a division on the clause; and it was carried by 64 to 10.

The bill was then reported.

PARLIAMENTARY MORTGAGES OF IRISH ENCUMBERED ESTATES.

The debate, adjourned from the 15th instant, on the Securities for advances (Ireland) Bill, was resumed by Lord NAAS, on Thursday, with a repetition at much length of the objections urged against this bill, both as an independent measure, and as a measure to eke out the unsuccessful Encumbered Estates Act.

Mr. FRENCH followed up with complaints contrasting the kindly consideration shown by Government for distressed cotton-merchants, bankers, and Colonial planters, with the severity to Irish landlords: £11,000,000 has been lent to the former, on the Government credit; but in few or no cases has any money been offered to struggling Irish interests. He advocated the establishment of land-banks on the Prussian model.

Sir JOHN ROMILLY repeated those explanations as to the working of his bill which he has already several times made; showing how much its provisions are misrepresented, and exposing the exaggerated representations made in respect to the sales of estates at ruinously low prices. It was stated that an estate in Mayo, bringing in a rental of £400, had been sold for £600 under the Encumbered Estate Act; the facts, as communicated

by one of the Judges of the Commission, are these. The estate consisted of 7,878 rocky acres; when the estate was sold, only 234 acres were tenanted, at a rent of £178; leaving 7,600 acres untenanted, upon which an imaginary value of £424, was set to make up the rental of £600. But the £178 rent was nominal, for the tenants never paid anything. In the Ordnance valuation the lot is valued at £228 a-year; and as there is a head-rent of £200, the yearly profit would be only £28 a-year. For such an income £600 was a sufficient price. As to the financial effect of the debentures, there is no more need for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to interfere here than in the cases of debentures issued by the railway companies to raise £3,000,000, or £4,000,000, without injurious operation on the money-market. In reference to the suggestion of greater facilities to the unencumbered for borrowing, Sir John Romilly threw out a half promise.

The bill received support from Mr. FAGAN; from Mr. SADLER—whose opinion on all questions concerning land the O'GORMAN MAHON vouched to be of universal authority in Ireland; from Mr. HENRY HERBERT; from Mr. GROGAN—who now wished to make perfect the Encumbered Estates Act, which he originally opposed; and from Mr. STUART WORTLEY, after very considerable study of the measure both professionally and as one of the directors of a society whose business it is to lend money on good landed security.

On a division, the second reading was carried, by 186 to 41.

MINISTERIAL FINANCIAL FAILURES.

On the motion to go into Committee of Supply, on Friday, Mr. DISRAELI commented in sarcastic terms upon the frequent failures of the Ministry in their financial schemes. They were more troubled with their present surplus than they had been by former deficiencies. The budget was begun many weeks since, but was not yet finished. Relief had been promised to the agricultural distress, but the word of promise was kept only to the ear. Concluding that the four or five times amended Stamp Duty Repeal Act was now defunct, he invited the Government to explain what they meant to do with the money originally appropriated to the purposes of that bill.

Lord J. RUSSELL retorted upon Mr. Disraeli that he had stopped the business of the House in order to give them some information which was incorrect, and make some inquiries which were superfluous. Recapitulating the financial schemes indicated when the budget was first brought forward, the noble lord submitted that the Government were diligently carrying them out. The charge of vacillation he threw back upon the member for Buckinghamshire, who had enlivened the recess with projects for a sinking fund, and now appeared as a supporter of every plan for remitting taxes, regardless of the danger it might involve of leaving the Exchequer with a deficiency. If the country be really suffering under the infliction of free-trade, it is the duty of those who think so to bring the question fairly before Parliament: Lord John, at all events, will not be afraid of the question.

The episode thus originated became the chief discussion. Lord JOHN MANNERS defended the policy Lord John Russell had reviewed: at all events, it had enough merit to be eulogized and even plagiarized by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. HUMPHREY marked the scene of mutual crimination and recrimination; and, complained that Government do abide by their plans, which amount to this, that expenditure should be unreduced.

The House went into Committee of Supply; but Sir FRANCIS BARING stated that it was too late to proceed, and the Navy Estimates were postponed.

IMPRISONMENT OF A BRITISH SUBJECT IN AMERICA.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, in reply to a question put by Mr. COCKBURN, who commented in indignant terms upon the fact disclosed in a recent case before a police magistrate, that British subjects of colour might be seized on board a British ship at the port of Charleston, and imprisoned during the time the vessel remained in that port.

Lord PALMERSTON lamented that the subject was by no means new to her Majesty's Government; it was an undoubted fact, that in the states of South Carolina and Louisiana, every coloured man, whether foreigner, or citizen of another state, might be seized and imprisoned. In 1847, her Majesty's Government had ordered our Minister at Washington to remonstrate with the Government of the United States against a law, which was not only inconsistent with the comity of nations, but at variance with the treaty of 1815; and the answer was, that the Federal Government had no power to induce the Legislature of South Carolina to alter its municipal law; and that, if the British Government insisted upon its rights under the treaty, the Government of the United States would find the matter so difficult, if not impossible, to deal with, that it would be obliged to take advantage of the stipulation which gave liberty to either party to put an end to the treaty of 1815 upon twelve months' notice.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER then introduced his long-promised bill to amend the laws relating to savings banks. Some change in the administration of those establishments was necessitated by the enormous development they had undergone, having in the course of a few years expanded to the vast amount of 25 millions of invested capital. Disavowing any intention of establishing a Government interference with the official managers of the institutions, he proposed, as the condition of their

assuming the responsibility for all deposits, that the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt should appoint paid treasurers, through whose hands the entire mass of receipts and payments was to pass. Any violation of this rule by any other officers of the savings banks receiving or paying deposits was to render the offender liable to the ordinary penalties for misdemeanors. For all monies paid to these official treasurers the Government was to become liable towards the depositors. The commissioners were, in addition, to be empowered to send down an inspector to any bank which they might think proper, to audit its accounts, and provide against any possible fraud in its administration. It was also intended to limit to £100 the maximum amount of deposits by any single individual in the savings bank, and to reduce the interest paid thereon to £2 15s. per cent. A loss might hereafter, as in times past, accrue to the Government upon the general transaction of savings bank business; but this loss would vary according to the times, the prices of the public funds, &c.; and might be hoped at no time to reach any very serious amount. Various provisions extending to the funds of friendly societies, minors, lunatics, accumulations for the purchase of annuities, life assurances, &c., were afterwards detailed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who concluded a prolonged exposition of his measure by moving for leave to bring in the bill in order that it might be printed.

The provisions of the bill were variously criticised. Mr. HUME thought the plan a complicated one, and objected to the Government becoming a sort of insurance office. Sir H. WILLOUGHBY disliked the vesting so much power in the Commissioners of the National Debt. Mr. S. CRAWFORD referred to the losses sustained by the Rochdale and Irish banks. Mr. SLANEY regretted that the rate of interest and the amount of deposit were to be reduced. He recommended that the parties should have the option of investing the £100 in Exchequer Bills. Colonel THOMPSON deemed the country, not the Government, to have been in *laches*, and considered that the country should repair the losses. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a brief reply, declared his unwillingness to increase the floating debt, by adopting Mr. Slaney's suggestion, to allow the limited amount of deposits to be invested in Exchequer Bills.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

ECCLIASTICAL COMMISSION.

Sir G. GREY, in moving the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill (which had come from the Lords), gave an outline of its objects and of the general nature of its main provisions. This has already appeared in our paper. With reference to two provisions in the bill as passed by the House of Lords—one relating to the consolidation of the episcopal and common funds, the other concerning the endowments of certain deaneries—Sir GEORGE stated it was the intention of the Government to propose to restore the bill to the state in which it was before being altered in these particulars by the House of Lords.

Mr. HORSMAN regarded this bill as a sort of compromise—as the best measure the Government could expect to carry upon this important subject. The Ecclesiastical Commission was condemned by universal opinion—its defects were patent; but the only defect remedied by this bill was the appointment of two paid commissioners, which was its great boon. The measure, he considered, was conceived in a wrong spirit, and Mr. HORSMAN entered upon a severe criticism of the commission and of the provisions of the bill, maintaining that the business of the commission was purely secular, and that there was no necessity for any ecclesiastical members at all. Church temporalities could be sufficiently protected by lay members; bishops were not the church, which consisted of the laity. But he objected to bishops being upon the commission, because they were wanted elsewhere; and he drew a forcible contrast between what the prelates of the Church ought to be and what he alleged they were. In the committee he should endeavour to alter the bill so as to spiritualize, not secularize, the episcopal office.

Mr. GOULBURN replied to Mr. HORSMAN, whom he accused of reiterating, upon the subject of a bill framed for a particular object, details relating to other objects, calculated to cast vituperation upon the characters of those who were absent. Bishops, in comparison with other professions, were underpaid rather than overpaid.

Mr. E. DENNISON approved of the bill.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed that all the objections offered to the bill were matter for consideration in committee; he thought Mr. HORSMAN was not justified in founding a long declamation upon the question whether there should be two paid commissioners or three, and he did not subscribe to his strictures upon bishops.

Mr. OSBORNE made a keen attack upon Mr. Goulburn, in whose defence Sir R. INGLIS administered a rebuke to Mr. Osborne in terms of unusual severity, proceeding then to reply to Mr. HORSMAN.

After some discussion as to whether the debate should be adjourned, and an explanation of a personal kind betwixt Mr. HORSMAN and Mr. GOULBURN, the bill was read a second time.

MISCELLANEOUS.

KIDDERMINSTER ELECTION.—Mr. BOUVIER, on Thursday, the 25th ult., presented the report of the select committee on the Kidderminster Election, the decision of which was, that Mr. Best had been duly elected.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Mr. M'GREGOR, on the same day, moved a resolution to the effect that, in consideration of the recent changes in the Navigation-

laws, it is expedient that the Stamps on Marine Assurances, Bills of Lading, and other shipping documents, be abolished. The CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer called on the House to reject the motion, which was supported, nevertheless, by Lord JOHN MANNERS, Alderman THOMPSON, Mr. HUME, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. HENLEY, but was negatived by 156 against 89.

WATER BILLS.—In the Commons, on Friday, on the order of the day for the second reading of the Watford Water Company Bill and the Henley Water Works Bill, Lord ASHLEY moved the postponement of them till Monday fortnight, by which time the Sanitary Commissioners will have presented their Report on the subject of the Supply of Water. After some conversation, the postponement was acquiesced in.

THE DISTRESSED UNIONS ADVANCES AND THE REPAYMENT OF ADVANCES BILL passed through committee in the Commons, on Friday, without important alteration of its clauses. Mr. HENRY HERBERT made a defensive statement on Irish credit; showing, from official returns, that of £8,483,000 lent to Ireland by the Imperial Government since 1817, only £2,843,395 was repaid in 1848. Mr. M'GREGOR's motion to abolish Marine Insurances was very briefly debated; and was negatived, by 156 to 89.

PUBLIC SALARIES.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL has procured the nomination of the following members to constitute his select committee on Official Salaries: Lord John Russell, Mr. Wilson Patten, Mr. Bright, Sir John Yarde Buller, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Napier, Mr. Home Drummond, Mr. William Evans, Sir William Molesworth, Mr. Henley, Mr. Ellice, Mr. Ricardo, Mr. Walter, and Mr. Deedes.

THE STAMP DUTIES.—Yesterday week Sir CHARLES WOOD said he had learnt that there are so many objections to his last plans on the Stamp Duties, that he could not proceed with the bill on Friday without further consideration. He postponed the bill for a week, to consider whether it is possible to reconcile the vote of the House with the amount of revenue which it is necessary to obtain.

A NEW WRIT has been moved for Lymington, the Hon. Colonel Keppel having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

ECCLIASTICAL.

THE INDIGENT MASTER OF ST. CROSS HOSPITAL AGAIN.—The Hon. and Rev. Earl of Guilford, Rector and Incumbent of the rich living of St. Mary's, Southampton, Rector of South Stoneham, Incumbent of Old Alresford, &c., &c., has refused to pay the Church-rate on the Deanery not in his Lordship's occupation (but which ought to be) at St. Mary's, Southampton. The churchwarden recently applied, in due course, after the rate was made, to the tenants of the property, and was politely requested to "call again." Meanwhile, a communication was made to the Earl on the subject, who responded to the effect that he should not pay the amount; assigning as a reason, that *deaneries are exempt*. Here the matter stands at present; but the churchwarden has intimated his intention to test the legality of the Earl's position by a warrant and concomitants. The worthy functionary does not feel satisfied with his Lordship's ideas of "backing out," under cover of ecclesiastical "cope." The rate amounts to not more than fifteen shillings, and common people look askance at the £3,000 which his Lordship "pockets yearly, by his condescension," and think, for people *will* think, that all this fuss about so trifling a sum ill befits his dignity, to say the least, especially as the inmates of the deanery, as a matter of course, make use of the parish church. It is to be feared, however, that the rev. lordling has his footing on an act of Parliament passed in the reign of George the Third, and that, in consequence, any attempt at recovery, by appeal to law, on the part of the churchwarden, would be a futile affair, and put the parish to an unnecessary expense.—*From a Correspondent.*

THE GORHAM CASE.—At a meeting of the London Church Union, held on Tuesday, the subject of a proposed public meeting, to be held in London, with a view to a formal expression of the feeling awakened by the recent judgment in the Gorham case, was taken into consideration. The committee's report having been read and adopted, it was agreed that a committee should be appointed, with instructions to enter into communication on the subject with the various provincial unions, and with individual members of the clergy and laity in the different dioceses.

—*Guardian.*—The Bishop of Bath and Wells has replied to the address presented to him by a great number of his clergy on the Gorham case, stating that he agrees with them "in thinking that the constitution of the present court of appeal, in matters ecclesiastical, unsatisfactory." He states that "all the members of the English Episcopate are at this time in anxious deliberation on the subject," and desire prayers that they may "come to such a conclusion as may obviate what is at present anomalous and objectionable, and may promote the peace and unity of our beloved Church."

IRISH ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.—The total receipts of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland, for the year ending the 1st of August, 1849, were £90,642 17s. 1d., and the disbursements to £84,000, £25,726 of which was expended on the rebuilding, enlarging, and repairing of churches.

THE REV. MR. MARKELL, of St. Mary's, Torquay, has left his parish for three months—the bishop having given him leave of absence for that period.

DOMESTIC.

THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS and the Duchess of Orleans arrived at Dover on Thursday. The Duchess of Orleans with her sons, the Count of Paris and the Duke of Chartres, and the Queen of the Belgians, have joined the circle of Louis Philippe at Claremont.

WORKING MAN'S READING-ROOM.—"A benevolent lady" some time since entrusted to Lord Ashley a large sum of money for charitable purposes, and the noble lord decided to use it in establishing a reading-room and library, "for the labouring classes resident in Whitechapel." At a public meeting at the school-rooms, Whitechapel-road, on Wednesday week, Lord Ashley stated that the rooms and library would be opened on the following Monday.

A PROFITABLE SPECULATION.—One of our leading Brazilian houses shipped a quantity of Manchester goods some months ago to Buenos Ayres. Finding the market closed up, and no sale for the articles, they were re-imported, and the shippers recently sold them in Manchester at a profit of twelve per cent., after paying freight and all other charges.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

A LIBRARY FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—A large public library is to be established in the centre of a crowded district in Manchester; the active agent in the good work being, it appears, the worthy mayor of the town. A large number of firms have subscribed £100 each, whilst Sir Oswald Mosley, formerly the Lord of the Manor of Manchester, and owner of the land, has exhibited an equal desire to further the object. The Hall of Science, erected ten years ago by the Socialists, will be purchased for the purpose. It is reported that the library will be a "lending" one—such an experiment would be worthy of the men of Manchester.

THE WINDOW DUTIES.—On Friday, a numerous deputation, representing various sanitary, philanthropical, and architectural associations of the metropolis, waited by appointment, introduced by Lord Robert Grosvenor, on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the subject of the window-duties. The Chancellor said the question would receive the fullest consideration of her Majesty's Government.

EFFECTS OF FREE TRADE.—The bakers in the eastern and other portions of the metropolis are now selling their bread at 4½d. and 5d. per 4lb. loaf, weighed on delivery. Another gratifying fact is, that the poor's-rate at Mile-end has been reduced to 7d. in the pound.

LIBERATION OF THE LAST CHARTIST CONVICT.—Yesterday week, Mr. Keene, the Governor of Horse-monger-lane Gaol, received a free pardon from the Home-office for Patrick Looney, one of the Chartists convicted at the Old Bailey, at the September sessions, 1848. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Horse-monger-lane gaol. He has consequently been in confinement twenty months.

It is alleged that the use of the Athanasian Creed on the days on which it is by order of the Church prescribed to be read has been prohibited in the Queen's private chapel.

ANOTHER SAVINGS' BANK CLOSED.—The Savings' Bank at Lewes has been closed until further notice, owing to the indisposition of the actuary, and some unexplained errors in the accounts. The name of the actuary is Henry Bartlett, who has held his office for about twenty years.

COMMITTAL OF THOMAS SMETON.—This individual, who has recently been secretary to several building societies in Ipswich and its vicinity, was fully committed for trial on Monday week, on three separate charges. First, for obtaining money under false pretences, on behalf of the East Anglian Building and Investment Society; second, for embezzling money belonging to the Suffolk Improved Building and Improvement Company; the third charge being for a similar offence against the same company.

THE MURDER OF MARY ANNE PARSONS.—After a long inquiry into the case of Mary Anne Parsons, the magistrates have committed both the prisoners, Mr. and Mrs. Bird, to be tried at the assizes for a felonious assault on the deceased.

ACCIDENT FROM A PIN.—A young Scotch lady, Miss Lavinia Downie, has undergone, with fatal issue, an operation to extract a pin which was lately discovered to be in her ear. When a very little girl, twenty years ago, Miss Downie put a pin in her mouth, and presently afterwards, as she believed, swallowed it. A festering in the ear lately revealed the existence of a foreign substance; and after great suffering the lost pin was extracted: it had become much bent in working its course through the tissues and bony structures. The young lady suffered long and intensely, and died on the 4th inst.

CHANCERY IMPROVEMENTS.—Thirty-five new general orders have been issued by the Lord Chancellor, under the signatures of himself, the Master of the Rolls, and the three Vice-Chancellors, for simplifying the practice of Chancery Courts, and facilitating the administration of justice in them. The main features are, the establishment of a new and inexpensive mode of initiating complaints by a simple writ of summons—as in the Common Law Courts—and of prosecuting suits originally before the Masters in Chancery, in matters of administration, appointment of new trustees, mortgage, and partnership. Schedules fix a scale of moderate fees.

A SCHISM has sprung up among the monks inhabiting the trees and towers of Canterbury Cathedral; and a portion of them have seceded and established a rookery in a congenial site, formerly the abode of the White Monkeys in that city.

A SAMPLE OF DAHOMEY COTTON, the first ever imported from that part of Africa, has been received at



Manchester. It is of a clear, good colour, and the staple is fine. There is a probability that before long the west coast of Africa may compete to a very considerable extent with the United States in the supply of this important raw material of our great staple manufacture.

The second anniversary dinner of the Whittington Club and Metropolitan Athenæum took place on Wednesday, April 24, and was very fully attended. The members of this club amount to nearly 1,900, of whom 400 are ladies.

At a Convocation held at Oxford, on the 23rd inst., several alterations in the Examination Statute were agreed to; amongst the clauses the one which lays down the subjects of examination in the school of jurisprudence and modern history was carried by a majority of 63, the numbers being—placets, 127; non-placets, 74.

Four "navvies" who murdered a man in a drunken outrage at Otley, and severely wounded several persons, including a woman whom they stabbed, have been committed to York Castle on six several charges of cutting and wounding.

It is understood to be in contemplation to erect a monastery on an extensive scale near the Roman Catholic Chapel in Rugby, land having been purchased for that purpose. Several novices are at present in course of probation for this new religious foundation.—*Aris's Birmingham Gazette*.

It is a strange anomaly that, although prices continue longer low than is agreeable to parties interested in agriculture, some farms lately out of lease in Ayrshire have found tenants readily; one very recently, at an advanced rent. Grass parks, too, are at as high rates as formerly.

EXECUTION OF THE CONVICT MURPHY.—On Wednesday the execution of William Murphy, convicted at the last assizes of murder, took place in front of the county gaol. He was attended to the drop by four priests. He made a declaration in Irish, amounting to a full confession of the murder.—*Cork Examiner*.

The *Worcester Journal* records a cruel joke, played off upon a dairyman. Some wags awoke him at midnight with a hurried announcement that his best cow was choking. He jumped into his small-clothes, and ran off to save the life of Crummie; when lo! he discovered a turnip stuck into the spout of his pump!

AUXILIARY EXPEDITION IN SEARCH OF SIR J. FRANKLIN.—Lady Franklin has just purchased the ketch "Prince Albert," of ninety tons, of the Messrs. White, of Cowes, to proceed to Prince Regent's Inlet, and send parties across from Brentford Bay to the western side of Boothia, which will explore to the Strait of Sir James Ross; whilst another party will explore the eastern side of Boothia, as far as Lord Major's Bay, in search of her ladyship's gallant husband. The "Prince Albert" will be immediately fitted out at Aberdeen, and will leave that place in about three weeks. By permission of the Admiralty, who answered his request immediately it was received, Commander Codrington Forsyth, an experienced surveying officer of the royal navy, will command this expedition.

A FREE PARDON has been granted by her Majesty to Thomas Glenn, convicted at the late assizes for Surrey, at Kingston, for the murder of his illegitimate child. This decision has been arrived at in compliance with the recommendation of the judge (Baron Maule) who tried the case.

REMOVAL OF THE VERNON GALLERY.—Saturday, the authorities at the National Gallery received the official instructions for the removal of the Vernon collection from Trafalgar-square to Marlborough House, the residence of the late Queen Dowager, where the collection will be opened to public inspection on Whit-Monday.

LOOK UNDER YOUR BEDS.—On Sunday last, Wells and wife (landlord and landlady of the White Swan Inn) had been in bed two hours, when Mrs. Wells was awoke by a hand passing over her face. The landlord, concluding that a small dog had got into the room, tried to persuade his wife that she must be mistaken. Mrs. Wells, however, was positive, and Wells got out, and, upon striking a light, discovered a man crouched in a corner of the room. Without delay, Wells caught hold of him, and commenced belabouring him with his fists right and left, until the fellow bellowed lustily for mercy. "Holt! holt!" he cried. "Ah! I'll holt thee," said Wells, and another and another blow rendered him well nigh senseless; when the landlord, thinking he had given him enough, threw up the window, and called for the police, who quickly conveyed the intruder to the station-house. The next morning he was brought before the mayor, and sent to prison for two months as a rogue and vagabond. He had not been seen about the house for six months before.—*Devizes Gazette*.

REFUSAL TO TAKE AN OATH.—In the course of one of the trials at the Aberdeen Circuit Court of Justiciary last week, Thomas Farquharson, a witness, refused to take the oath, on the ground that the Scriptures commanded him "to swear not at all." In answer to the question, whether he was a Separatist, he said, "No." He was, therefore, committed for contempt of Court. At a subsequent period (the trial having ended in the conviction of the parties accused), he was recalled; "and," says the *Edinburgh News*, "being admonished to attend more to things essential to salvation, and less to particular points of doctrine, was discharged."

DEATH OF THE POET WORDSWORTH.—The great poet Wordsworth died on Tuesday week at his residence, Rydal Mount, Windermere. He was

born in the year 1770, at Cockermouth, in Cumberland. His parents were of the middle class, and he was educated, together with his brother, afterwards Dr. Wordsworth, at the Hawkshead Grammar School. In 1787 he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated. Shortly after he made a pedestrian tour in France, Switzerland, and Italy, of which the result was a volume of poems, entitled "Descriptive Sketches in Verse." This production was accompanied by another poetical work, entitled the "Evening Walk," an "Epistle to a young lady from the lakes in the north of England." These formed together the young poet's first appeal to the public. They were issued in 1793, and at once arrested the attention of discerning men. He soon afterwards met with Coleridge, and in 1803, married with Miss Mary Hutchinson, of Penrith. In 1814, he published his celebrated "Excursion," and his other works followed at intervals. He early received the appointment of Distributor of Stamps for the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland. This, with the tardy though sure profits of his works, enabled him to live in a dignified independence, in the midst of those beautiful scenes by which so much of his best poetry had been inspired. On the death of Southey, he was nominated to the post of Poet Laureate. In this capacity he wrote an ode on her Majesty's visit to Cambridge. Of the late years of the life of this honoured poet, whose name is already enshrined with those of the most illustrious, there is nothing to record. "Dying at fourscore years," remarks a contemporary, "Wordsworth enjoyed the happiness, so rarely given to men of the highest order of intellect, of contemplating the certainty of his own fame, and of seeing reversed by his contemporaries those hasty judgments which are usually left to the retribution or the contempt of posterity."

THE REFORM QUESTION.—The chance of the present House of Commons remaining much longer as it is, is a very small one. If affairs are allowed to progress as they are doing at present, the change, when it does come, will certainly be in a democratic sense. No counter project of any sort has as yet been put forth, and unless some project is devised and taken up by the country party, another downward step will assuredly be taken, the difficulty of retrieving which will be almost insuperable.—*Morning Herald*, April 23, 1850.

FOREIGN.

Ruggiero Settimo, ex-president of the insurgent Government of Sicily, now residing in Malta, was by the last accounts confined by severe illness, and little hope was entertained of his recovery.

Letters from Messina, of the 12th, state that since the ninth, there have been upwards of forty shocks of earthquakes, in consequence of which the greatest alarm was prevalent, and the business was at a complete stand.

The Empress Dowager of China departed this life (*lit.*, went to room with spirits) upon the 16th day of the 12th moon of the 29th year of Taoukwang (the 18th of January). Officers, civil and military, were thereupon enjoined to array themselves in white, and perform ceremonies proper for such occasions. They were also to affix a blue stamp to all public documents, and are not to permit drums to beat or fife to play in front of their Ya-muns.

CHRISTIAN ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES.—A convention of Christians of all denominations was to be held at Cincinnati on Wednesday, the 24th of April, to consider the connexion of the American church with the sin of slavery, and to adopt such measures as might seem best to free the church from that guilt. The circular calling the meeting was signed by twelve ministers of eight different denominations. A correspondent of the *Christian Times* says, the names of this committee are those of men of much influence in the Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist Presbyterian, and Congregational churches.

The widow of Marshal Blucher died on the 16th ult., at her residence on the Pariser Platz, Berlin, at an advanced age.

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT has offered a premium of 20,000 imperial ducats for the best locomotive engine, to run on the line of railway about to be carried over the ridge of the Semmering mountains, from Murzzuchlag, in Syria, to Gloggnitz, in Lower Austria. The curves and gradients are formidable.

THE EXHIBITION OF 1851.—A *precis* of information has been received from abroad, by which is perceived the interest taken by foreign countries in the object of the royal commission. Corresponding commissions have been formed in France, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Central Germany, Prussia, Bavaria, Hanover, Saxony, and all the minor states, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Spain, Sardinia, and the United States.

THE SEARCH AFTER SIR J. FRANKLIN.—Despatches had been received in New York by Mr. Barclay, her Britannic Majesty's Consul, dated from the vicinity of Lake Superior, the 16th ultimo, relative to the exploration on the north coast of America, conducted by Dr. Rae and Lieutenant Pullen, of her Majesty's ship "Plover." From these documents it appears, that the "Plover's" boat expedition had safely traversed the sea-coast, the mouth of the Mackenzie River, and had then joined Dr. Rae. No signs of Sir John Franklin's presence on that coast had been discovered, and no accounts had been received of him from any source.

[For the remainder of the news of the week see the postscript.]

LAW, POLICE, ASSIZE, &c.

THE GORHAM CASE.—The judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench on the application of the Bishop of Exeter to prohibit the Court of Arches in the Gorham case, was delivered on Thursday, by Lord Chief-Justice Campbell. Lord Campbell premised that he should have abstained from giving an opinion if the application were connected with any point argued or decided in the Judicial Committee of Privy Council; but the applicant himself suggests that the point did not occur to his advisers till after the decision; it was, in fact, as new to Lord Campbell as to his learned brothers beside him. The argument of Sir Fitzroy Kelly was, that in all cases touching the Queen the only appeal is to the Upper House of Convocation. Upon the question whether the Queen was interested or not in this case, the Court needed not to express any opinion; it thought that even in such cases there never was any appeal to the Convocation. The first statute quoted in argument, relating only to tithes, &c. (24th Henry VIII., chapter 12), was passed when Sir Thomas More, a rigid Roman Catholic, was Chancellor, and when Henry had not yet broken with the See of Rome; it therefore still allowed the appeal on all spiritual matters, and reserved only suits on temporal matters for decision within the realm. The ultimate appeal under that act, where the matter did not touch the King, went no further than the Archbishop, whose decision was to be final; where the matter did touch the King, the appeal went to the Upper House of Convocation, whose decision was to be final. Next year, when Henry found no chance of succeeding with his divorce suit, he broke with the Pope altogether, and resolved to vest wholly in himself the jurisdiction which the Pope had till that time retained. Sir Thomas More was succeeded by the pliant Lord Audley; and several statutes were passed by Parliament to carry out the King's aims. The first of these was the statute cited secondly in Sir Fitzroy Kelly's argument, (the 25th Henry VIII. chapter 19); and it enacts that, in all manner of appeals of what nature soever [temporal or spiritual], the manner and form of appealing established by the former act should be observed,—that is to say, to the archdeacon, bishop, and archbishop, in succession. No exception is made where the King is touched; the enactment extends to all cases. The section following that which Sir Fitzroy Kelly quoted, creates a new court of appeal for "all causes in the ecclesiastical courts." "For lack of justice in any of the courts of the archbishops, it shall be lawful to the parties aggrieved to appeal to his Majesty in the High Court of Chancery;" where delegates are to be appointed. This appeal is given in all cases—as well in the spiritual, theretofore taken to Rome, as in the temporal, enumerated by the act, chapter 12. "All manner of appeals hereafter to be taken from the jurisdiction of any abbots, priors, and places exempt from the ordinary, shall be to the King's Majesty in the Court of Chancery, in like manner and form as heretofore to the See of Rome." No exception is made of suits touching the King; though it was notorious that theretofore they went to Rome. Lord Coke expressly puts this construction on the statute, in the commentary on it in his Fourth Institute. In practice this construction has been acted on for three centuries, although many suits gave opportunity for a contrary construction, both in the Catholic reign which immediately succeeded that of Henry the Eighth, and in the religiously contentious reigns which followed after; and in some of these cases the matter of the suit was one which obviously touched the King's personal interest. The language of the statute being clear instead of obscure, there is no justification for differing from the construction put on it by contemporaneous and long-continued usage. If it be true, as suggested, that the Upper House of Convocation is a fitter tribunal, the Court cannot regard that, or be influenced by any view to public policy; it can only interpret the law as presented in the language of the law. The Court holds that no reason has been alleged to invalidate the appeal to the Queen in Council, or the sentence delivered; and it refuses to call on Mr. Gorham to show cause why the execution of that sentence should not be stayed.

THE QUEEN v. LATIMER.—Sir Frederick Thesiger, yesterday week, obtained a rule in the Court of Queen's Bench, to show cause why a criminal information should not be found against the defendant for a libel published by him in the *Plymouth Journal*, upon Miss Sellon and the Sisters of Mercy.

HASLINGDEN.—The Rev. James Bury resigned his pastoral charge over the Baptist church at Colne, Lancashire, on the 7th of April, and has accepted a unanimous invitation from the Baptist church meeting in Ebenezer Chapel, Bury-road, Haslingden (in the same county) to become their future pastor, and intends to enter on his labours on the third Sabbath of May, 1850.

FORDINGBRIDGE, HANTS.—The Rev. Morgan Williams, B.A., late of Homerton College and the University of London, has accepted the cordial and unanimous invitation of the Independent church at Fordingbridge to become their pastor, and entered upon his labours, under encouraging auspices, on Lord's-day, the 14th ult.

Printed by CHARLES SEPTIMUS MIAL, and SAMUEL COCKSHAW, at No. 4, Horse-shoe-court, in the Parish of St. Martin, Ludgate, in the City of London, and published, for the Proprietor, by CHARLES SEPTIMUS MIAL, at the Office, No. 4, Horse-shoe-court, Ludgate-hill. — FRIDAY, May 3, 1850.